

**Question for written answer E-000614/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Urgent action needed to tackle the Italian and EU farming crisis

Italian farming – one of the pillars of the country's economy and a repository of its cultural heritage – is facing an unprecedented crisis that is being compounded by unfair competition from foreign products, which undermine public health and the economic viability of Italy's agricultural sector. Italian and European farmers' ability to compete is further undermined by the absence of effective promotional campaigns for national products and by the particularly unbalanced distribution of added value.

The uneven redistribution of state and EU aid has further exacerbated inequalities in the farming sector – particularly in southern Italy – and has also led to greater market concentration, thus marginalising smaller producers.

In the light of the above:

1. What measures will the Commission take to address the financial crisis affecting Italian farming and to ensure that this sector can once again be a driving force of the EU economy?
2. Will the Commission implement extraordinary plans to support Member States in adopting relief measures for agribusinesses, for example by incentivising or recommending loan repayment moratoria and more favourable mortgage renegotiation conditions?
3. Does the Commission think it fair that farming is the only economic sector where buyers, not sellers, set prices?

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