

**Question for written answer E-000637/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Taking targeted action to relieve and strengthen the agricultural sector

Whether in times of crisis or not, Europeans always care about food security and food production. Together with livestock farmers, fruit and vegetable growers, fishers, silviculturists, hunters and foresters, our agricultural holdings provide healthy, safe and affordable food and environmentally friendly raw materials from Europe. They are the beating heart of our countrysides. However, our farms are under tremendous pressure. The vast majority of customers expect them to offer the best services at the lowest prices, not to mention the competitive pressure they face from non-EU competitors. A level playing field therefore needs to be established for companies across Europe. The framework for this is the EU's common agricultural policy (CAP). The CAP should primarily serve European agriculture – this means also ensuring that EU regulations do not put our farmers at a competitive disadvantage.

In view of the above:

1. Should CAP funds be used predominantly and in a targeted manner to ensure the security and production of food and raw materials?
2. What is the Commission doing to cut down the red tape around the CAP and make it more targeted, so that our farmers can earn a decent income and receive the protection they need on the highly volatile agricultural markets?
3. Does it see a need for the current EU Nitrates Directive, among other things, to be revised so that it covers all nitrate inputs in future and provides for a standardised EU-wide network of measuring points?

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