

**Question for written answer E-000817/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Durum wheat prices tumbling in Italy – need for restriction on Russian imports

Data from the Italian National Institute of Statistics reveals that around 400 000 tonnes of durum wheat was imported to Italy from Russia between January and November 2023. Over the same period in 2022, around 32 000 tonnes was imported, meaning that there has been an increase of more than 1100 %. Durum wheat price speculation is now happening in Italy, especially in regions such as Apulia – the Foggia Commodity Exchange reports a drop of EUR 68 per tonne in the last month and a half (February to mid-March 2024) alone for fino, mercantile, buono mercantile and organic durum wheat among other varieties¹.

This situation is putting around 200 000 farms at risk and could thus lead to the end of durum wheat production in Italy.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission plan to extend the sanctions to Russian agri-food products to safeguard Italy and Europe's local production?
2. Will it implement more transparent policies on markets with import restrictions?
3. Will it use the CAP's agricultural reserve fund to mitigate the losses of Italian cereal farmers?

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¹ <https://www.fg.camcom.it/>