

**Major interpellation for written answer G-001004/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 139

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on behalf of the Renew Group

Subject: The surge in commodity and input prices in the agricultural sector

Every day, the EU's food supply chain provides the 450 million people in the EU with a wide variety of high-quality food. However, a combination of factors, among them the recovery of the EU, the US and Asia and the disruption of many supply chains across the world, are leading to strong tensions in the commodities and input markets. Energy prices, in particular the price of natural gas, are reaching new highs, while other input costs such as fertilisers, fuel, electricity, seeds, machinery and feed have also seen sharp price increases, squeezing the profit margins of farmers beyond acceptable levels.

In its recent communication on a contingency plan for ensuring food supply and food security in times of crisis, the Commission said it aims to step up food system preparedness for crises through contingency planning and the European Food Security Crisis preparedness and response Mechanism. However, the strengths of preventive approaches seem to have been underestimated.

1. Is the Commission considering departing from its crisis-management-only approach and developing a comprehensive holistic strategy that would work toward the prevention of market crises, given the Commission's competence under the Treaty and single common market organisation, in order to allow market agents to better adapt their decisions to expected market developments? Does the Commission agree that prevention and preparedness must go hand in hand with crisis management to prevent further aggravation of the market situation and negative impacts on consumers, agriculture and the food sector?
2. Does the Commission have a clear policy strategy on how the current and future agricultural environmental and energy policies and targets will impact the EU's ability to deal with and respond to food crises?
3. Does the Commission have concrete measures in place to respond to and alleviate the serious problems some agricultural sectors, particularly the pig meat sector, are facing during the current surge in input prices?