

**Priority question for written answer P-002941/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Engin Eroglu (Renew)**

Subject: Timber exports

Timber is one of the most important raw materials in the energy and construction sectors, and for many other commodities. The current scarcity and the concomitant increase in the price of this raw material therefore have far-reaching economic consequences. These consequences are not limited to increasing production costs of products for which wood is a key raw material, but also have a massive impact on industries where the material forms part of the production chain. In the construction sector in particular, the impact of supply shortages is dire. Timber is a key raw material used in a variety of building processes and may, if not available for the execution of such a process according to schedule, delay an entire construction project for an indefinite period with the corresponding impact on the labour force.

The shortage of timber and the exorbitant prices charged for available supplies therefore call for rapid and decisive action. In order to resolve this pressing issue, it would seem reasonable to apply export restrictions to timber as a raw material. Regulation (EU) 2015/479 provides for such an approach in the event of a critical shortage of a raw material.

Hence my question:

Is the Commission considering temporary restrictions on exports of timber?