

**Priority question for written answer P-001289/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: War in Ukraine, drought and an agricultural sector on its knees

The war between Ukraine and Russia has worsened the plight of the agricultural sector, which has been hit by the rise in energy costs, blocked imports, and a general hike in feed, protein crop and fertiliser prices.

According to an analysis by the Council for Agricultural Research and Economics (CREA), the current international economic crisis may leave one farm in ten (the national average being 11%) unable to afford the direct costs of production processes, forcing them out of the circuit, while almost one third could end 2022 with negative income.

Most negatively affected, as they face the highest percentage increases in running costs (between 65 and 70%), are arable farmers, cereal-growers and horticulturalists, owing to the combined effect of the rise in energy and fertiliser prices, followed by dairy farmers (+ 57%).

In the light of the above:

1. Alongside a new energy autonomy model, is the Commission planning on initiating medium- and long-term action and plans to afford Europe greater food autonomy, so it can respond to shocks such as the current one?
2. What action will it take to contain the energy price rise and the costs of production inputs to ensure the survival of Italian farmers and breeders?
3. What will it do to reduce our strategic dependencies and pursue an ambitious investment policy?