

**Priority question for written answer P-002655/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Mara Bizzotto (ID)

Subject: Italy's plan to tackle its extraordinary wave of droughts and save food self-sufficiency

Owing to the extraordinary wave of droughts and the consequent hollowing out of national water reserves, Italian farming finds itself in a major emergency that is jeopardising one third of food production and 332 000 farms, according to Coldiretti's most recent forecasts.

To address this catastrophe which is undermining the country's food self-sufficiency, the Italian Government has devised, using Recovery Plan funds, a EUR-4.4 billion plan structured around four pillars: wastewater treatment; upgrading, digitisation and integrated monitoring of water networks; renewing primary water infrastructure and modernising the irrigation system in the agricultural sector.

At the same time, the National Association for Land and Irrigation Improvement (ANBI) and Coldiretti have presented the 'Laghetto plan', a project to build more than 10 000 water reservoirs by 2030 and thus to significantly increase the percentage of rain retained at ground level.

Constructing these reservoirs would also irrigate 435 000 hectares of land and create an estimated 16 300 new jobs.

.

1. Does the Commission consider the Italian Government's plan to tackle the drought emergency to be adequate?
2. How does it assess the proposals put forward by ANBI and Coldiretti? Does it intend to finance the 'Laghetto plan'?