

**Priority question for written answer P-004169/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Annalisa Tardino (ID)

Subject: Serious crisis in the 'Canicattì' PGI table grapes industry

The 'Canicattì' PGI table grapes industry operates in 36 municipalities in Sicily and numbers around 4 000 specialist vineyards. Together with the associated supply chain, it fuels the social, economic and credit systems of the region to the tune of over EUR 250 million a year and generates over 3 million working days.

The industry has been hard hit first by the pandemic crisis and now by the effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which has led to a dramatic increase in the overall costs faced by the companies, as well as shrinking demand, making for an estimated loss of around EUR 325 million over the three-year period 2019-2021.

Given that a crisis has been declared in the table grapes industry in the Canicattì and Mazzarrone PGI areas by the municipality of Canicattì and other municipal assemblies, with this being notified to the Presidency of the Italian Council of Ministers and the Presidency of the Sicily Regional Government, can the Commission state whether it does not feel that measures including direct and extraordinary area-based aid, a derogation from the limits currently in force for the de minimis scheme and the possibility of an ad hoc premium for grubbing-up should be acceptable and eligible for funding as post-crisis support instruments?

Submitted: 24.12.2022