

**Priority question for written answer P-000876/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Increase in food retail prices

Over the past months, we have been witnessing a substantial fall in energy and food commodity prices from the peaks recorded in 2022.

However, many economists are expressing concern that this is not being reflected in retail prices, especially for food. This could lead to a dangerous price-wage spiral, prompting further hikes in ECB rates with a major risk of undermining the banking and financial system.

The French Government has recently announced a deal with a number of major retailers in a bid to contain the price of consumer staples during what is being referred to as an 'anti-inflation quarter'.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission give a comprehensive breakdown of the recent increase in food retail prices compared with the trends for energy, raw materials and food commodities, as well as wage costs?
2. Will it investigate possible concerted practices by cartels that are depriving consumers of price reductions in line with the substantial fall in the cost of energy and raw materials, including food commodities?
3. Will it seek to introduce coordinated initiatives similar to the 'anti-inflation quarter' that has been announced in France?

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