

**Priority question for written answer P-000961/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Billy Kelleher (Renew)

Subject: EU-funded solar power grant and limitations on selling excess electricity to the grid

In Ireland, targeted agriculture modernisation schemes, which are co-funded by the EU, provide grants to farmers so they can build and/or improve a specified range of farm buildings and equipment on their holding.

One grant that has recently been launched is the Solar Capital Investment Scheme, which will encourage the purchase of solar investments thereby reducing dependence on fossil energy.

The current rules state that 100 % of the electricity generated from the solar panels must be consumed on the applicant's holding, including the holding's dwelling house, for farming purposes. It is not permitted to use the electricity generated for commercial or non-farming consumption or to export the electricity generated. The Irish Government has claimed this prohibition is due to the fact that the scheme is co-funded by the EU.

1. Is it true that the EU has demanded this prohibition and if so, under what basis?
2. Does the Commission believe it is responsible for farmers to dump excess electricity rather than be allowed to sell it to the grid?
3. Will it revisit this prohibition in light of our climate requirements and loss of income for farmers?

Submitted: 22.3.2023