

**Question for written answer
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Farmer protest and EU's policy response

Farmers' protests against rising costs in the agricultural sector and dropping prices for their products are spreading across the EU.

Commission's reaction to them yesterday has been proposing to allow Member States to extend one more year the derogation of GAEC 8 standard on devoting a minimum share of arable land to non-productive areas or features. That means that the only policy response from the Commission so far is a further weakening of environmental rules that are key to encourage biodiversity and protect soil health.

But the underlying causes for farmers intense unease go beyond more flexibility in environmental rules. Mounting debt, extreme weather events, and specially pressure from retailers and agrochemical companies, as well as foreign imports in the context of EU free-trade deals are key concerns for the sector.

In light of that, is the COM reconsidering their trade policy and in particular the process to finalise the Association Agreement with Mercosur?

Would the Commission consider anticipating the evaluation of Directive (EU) 2019/633 on unfair trading practices in business-to-business relationships in the agricultural and food supply chain and assessing its revision before 2025?

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