

**Question for written answer E-002690/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Eric Sargiacomo (S&D)

Subject: Follow-up to Niinistö report as regards food stocks

Former Finnish President Sauli Niinistö has just published a report on strengthening Europe's civil and military preparedness and readiness. He stresses the importance of stockpiling, including foodstuffs, citing the examples of Finland and Switzerland.

In 2022, the Commission established a European food security crisis preparedness and response mechanism. This forum does not yet seem to have fully addressed the issue of food stockpiles, even though they are needed by the Member States, as provided for in the Directive on the resilience of critical entities.

Moreover, the 2023 Joint Research Centre study on food security factors does not at any point mention food stockpiling as a policy lever in this area.

1. Does the Commission intend to carry out a strategic reflection on food stockpiling in conjunction with the Member States, within the framework of the European food security crisis preparedness and response mechanism?
2. Does it intend to propose an update to the World Trade Organization's agricultural rules, which still prohibit stabilising food stockpiling policies, despite the repeated requests from many emerging countries?

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