

Question for written answer E-000072/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Large-scale mergers in agro-industry – Ensuring fair competition and protection of small farmers

The recent trend in large-scale mergers in giant multinationals in the agro-industrial sector creates significant challenges for the EU agricultural sector, because it poses the risk of creating monopoly conditions on the market and putting agricultural enterprises and cooperatives out of business, leading to further price rises and reduced innovation, thus undermining the European targets for a sustainable and competitive agricultural sector.

The EP¹ and recent reports² highlight the danger of increased market concentration due to mergers, which could be harmful both to small farmers and to consumers and could weaken the EU's ability to achieve its sustainability targets in the agricultural sector (with a likely shift of priorities from environmental and social sustainability to profit).

In view of this:

1. Is the Commission aware of the likely adverse impact of large-scale agro-industrial mergers on competition, on small farmers and local cooperatives, and on sustainability?
2. What measures is the Commission considering to ensure that such mergers will not harm the competitiveness of the EU's agricultural sector?
3. How will the Commission protect and/or strengthen small farmers, and how will it ensure that agro-industrial concentration does not undermine the EU's agricultural and environmental targets?

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¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2024-0011_EN.html

² <https://euobserver.com/green-economy/ar421c0515>