

**Question for written answer E-000012/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Agricultural prices and aggressive Chinese policies

Agricultural prices have risen by 30% in a year, according to the UN, and one of the reasons for this is China's policy of hoarding food stocks. 69% of the world's maize stocks, 60% of its rice stocks and 51% of its wheat stocks are now in Chinese hands. In the first eight months of 2021, China spent around USD 98.1 billion on food imports, with part of those purchases being made through agri-food giants indirectly controlled by the Beijing government. China's leading meat company, the Wh Group, has bought farms in Germany, Poland and the Netherlands. The ongoing energy crisis is also liable to impact on the food supply chain. The price of urea, which is a basic agricultural fertiliser, has skyrocketed.

Since the rise in agricultural prices is detrimental to the public, can the Commission state:

1. What measures it will take to boost agricultural production and agricultural product stocks in Europe?
2. Whether it intends to create a common storage system for wheat and gas along the lines proposed for the COVID-19 vaccine?
3. What steps it will take to make even stricter the measures established under Regulation (EU) 2019/452 on screening foreign direct investments in strategic sectors in the EU?