

**Question for written answer E-002050/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Salvatore De Meo (PPE), **Antonio Tajani** (PPE), **Herbert Dorfmann** (PPE), **Aldo Patriciello** (PPE), **Isabella Adinolfi** (PPE), **Fulvio Martusciello** (PPE), **Luisa Regimenti** (PPE), **Lucia Vuolo** (PPE), **Andrea Caroppo** (PPE), **Massimiliano Salini** (PPE)

Subject: Increase under the *de minimis* rule for the agricultural sector

The *de minimis* aid scheme, which is governed by Regulation (EU) No 1408/2013, provides for a ceiling of EUR 25 000 for the agriculture sector over any period of three fiscal years, but EUR 200 000 for other sectors. In an effort to counter the current liquidity crisis affecting agri-food businesses, the Italian Government has made it possible to renegotiate and restructure existing agricultural loans with the option, in compliance with the *de minimis* rule, of a free-of-charge guarantee from the State.

As a result of the EUR 25 000 ceiling, Italian farmers will find it more difficult to renegotiate long-term agricultural loans and recover the liquidity levels they need to tackle the ongoing crisis. In the mean time, the new legal framework on State aid is being established.

Taking the above into account:

1. Is the Commission considering an increase under the *de minimis* rule for the agricultural sector?
2. In the context of the new State aid framework, will the Commission consider a derogation from the EUR 25 000 limit for the sole purpose of possible security instruments by individual states?