

**Question for written answer E-001295/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Tomas Tobé (PPE)

Subject: Humanitarian demining assistance for Ukraine in the context of the global food crisis

Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine continues to fuel the global food crisis. The outlook for 2023 is bleak, with World Food Programme projections showing that 345.2 million people are expected to be food insecure.

Ukraine plays a massive role in providing food for the world. However, Russia's invasion is having a devastating impact on Ukraine's agriculture and jeopardising its harvests. Ukrainian farmlands are contaminated with landmines and explosive remnants, presenting a huge danger to farmers, fuelling food insecurity in Ukraine and threatening to disrupt global food supplies even more.

Brave Ukrainian farmers, who have been clearing landmines by hand, are in urgent need of greater humanitarian demining assistance to ensure their safety during this year's planting season and to further safeguard global food supplies.

The EU announced in February that it would strengthen the Ukrainian authorities' capacity to address the large-scale contamination caused by mines and explosive remnants in Ukraine. While this is a welcome announcement, it is important to stress that continued strong support will be necessary given the scale of the challenge and the threat.

Will the Commission take further measures to support humanitarian demining efforts in Ukraine, in particular for agricultural land, so that farmers can safely access their fields and farm them?

Submitted: 19.4.2023