## Priority question for written answer P-000323/2024 to the Commission

**Rule 138** 

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Subject: The restoration of permanent grassland in Lithuania

Lithuania has about one million hectares of wild grassland. However, with the ratio of permanent grassland falling by more than 5% in 2023 compared to the 2018 reference period, many Lithuanian farmers are obliged to restore permanent grassland. This puts farmers at risk of bankruptcy, especially young and small farmers who have retrained in other agricultural activities, received support for cereal production, committed themselves to reaching the required criteria, and now have to plough up and reseed their fields with winter legumes and grasses, losing their harvests and involuntarily breaking support rules.

- 1. Does the Commission take into account the amount of wild grassland and nature areas in a Member State when laying down requirements for the restoration of permanent grassland?
- 2. Given the amount of wild grassland and other areas in Lithuania, which should be seen as an important contribution to nature restoration, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and other Green Deal objectives, is the requirement to convert agricultural land to permanent grassland and to cease agricultural activity not excessive and overly burdensome for farmers?

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