Question for written answer E-003046/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Reshoring of the flax sector: industrial and strategic challenges for the EU

The European Union is today the world's largest producer of flax. France alone accounts for around 60% of global production. This crop is a strategic asset for our agriculture and for many rural areas. We have recognised know-how in this sector.

However, a significant proportion of this flax (95% in France) is exported to China, where it is spun and processed before being re-imported into the European market in the form of finished products, in particular clothing, household linen, composite materials and insulation panels.

Much of the added value and jobs associated with processing are thus lost to European producers and industrial firms.

At a time when the European Union is consistently expressing its ambition to strengthen its industry and reshore certain strategic production:

1. Has the Commission assessed the economic and industrial losses associated with exporting of a significant proportion of European flax to China for processing?

2. How does it explain the fact that the EU remains dependent on processing capacities located in China for a fibre for which the Member States account for the bulk of global production?

3. What measures does it intend to take to encourage the development of artisanal and industrial flax spinning and processing activities within the EU?

Supporter[1]

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