

Question for written answer E-004063/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Competitiveness of the European agri-food processing industry

The European agri-food sector is vital for employment, food security and the EU's trade balance. The agri-food industry is one of the largest employers in the European Union, providing almost 30 million jobs along the entire food chain¹. However, European operators face high energy and input costs, administrative burdens and competition from imports from countries where different environmental, phytosanitary or social standards apply.

1. How does the Commission intend to reduce regulatory costs and support investments by the European agri-food processing industry in modern technologies, digitalisation and energy efficiency?
2. How does the Commission intend to ensure a level playing field between EU producers and imports, including as regards reciprocity of production, environmental and health standards?

Submitted: 7.10.2026

¹ https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/life-future-proofing-europes-agri-food-industry-2025-12-15_en.