Question for written answer E-004186/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Critical plight of the Italian olive and olive oil sector and activating the agricultural reserve

The farm gate prices of Italian olives and olive oil have plummeted since the end of 2025, the produce of certain areas losing more than half its value. Energy and fertiliser costs have, on the other hand, remained high. ICQRF data[1] show that, by 31 July 2026, Italian olive oil stocks had increased to around 233 000 tonnes, a 40 % surge compared to July 2025. While Apulia and Calabria – which account for more than half of Italian production – are calling for this crisis to be officially recognised, there is a real risk that, in some areas, part of the harvest will go unpicked.

In the light of the above:

1. On what facts and evidence is the Commission basing its assessment that falling prices, increasing stocks and high energy and fertiliser costs have not disrupted the olive and olive oil sector enough to warrant activating the agricultural reserve?

2. What steps will the Commission take, and within what timeframe, to support this sector before the beginning of the 2026/27 crop year and before the situation deteriorates to such an extent that any remedial action would be too little or too late?

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[1] https://www.masaf.gov.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/25029.