

**Priority question for written answer P-000963/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Milk crisis

Already back in November 2025, organisations representing the dairy sector warned about the critical situation facing the European milk market, based on clear indicators that predicted a collapse in prices.¹

However, there was no reaction from the European Commission.

In some regions the purchase price has now dropped by more than 60 % compared to last year, falling well below the production price, with disastrous consequences: farmers forced to shut up shop, sell or slaughter their animals, with unpaid loans and farm bankruptcies – even farms with modern facilities – becoming widespread.

The crisis is complex: it is the result of an oversupply, insufficient processing into value-added products, higher feed prices, high environmental compliance costs, animal diseases, but also weakened bargaining power in the food supply chain, in particular due to the lack of binding written milk supply agreements.

1. Given the situation, will the Commission deploy the crisis reserve or make use of other mechanisms to stop a domino effect of milk producer bankruptcies?
2. What immediate solutions will be put in place to prevent a repetition of the 2016 milk crisis?
3. How does the Commission intend to strengthen the bargaining power of milk producers?

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¹ <https://www.europeanmilkboard.org/news-1/news-details/emb-general-assembly-warns-of-imminent-milk-crisis-2752.html>.