

Madam President,

The war launched by Vladimir Putin against Ukraine has already claimed an unbearable number of victims. It is crucial that everything be done to protect the security of the country and its inhabitants, and we welcome your willingness to commit the European Commission to this endeavour, which we share and support.

No one can deny the major consequences that this war could have not only on the people there, but also beyond, in Europe and even all across the globe. For it is a fact: on both sides of the Mediterranean, our production and consumption of foodstuffs depends largely on Ukrainian and Russian exports. This is in addition to the prices of agricultural markets, which have been rising since Covid in particular. At the beginning of March, wheat came close to 400€ per ton, that is to say almost 100 more than during the food crisis of 2008!

Like you, we are therefore concerned about the threats that this conflict poses to food security. We know that emergency measures must be taken to avoid a food crisis, which could destabilize entire regions. Our responsibility is therefore to make sure that no one gets left behind.

But if we write to you today, it is because we are concerned that the first measure discussed is the re-evaluation of the part of the Green Deal dedicated to agriculture, and in particular the "biodiversity" and "Farm To Fork" strategies.

It seems that some EU ministers have seized the opportunity of this war to review our objectives for the greening of agriculture, which should enable the European Union to meet its climate commitments in the medium and long term. Is there any urgency to lower them? We doubt it.

Let us remember that in the long term, these two strategies should allow us to reduce our dependence on synthetic inputs, which are largely manufactured using Russian gas, and thus build our food and political sovereignty. While the energy sector is undergoing a total upheaval to preserve our independence, could it be that this does not apply to agriculture?

How can we preserve the status quo when the IPCC report tells us that one third of the world's agricultural land will be unfit for farming by 2100? How can we explain this to the Ukrainian representative at the UN, who last week asked all his colleagues to persevere in their efforts to meet their climate commitments?

This is why we are asking you, Madam President, to reaffirm the European Commission's commitment to stay the course of the EU Green Deal, and to implement the "biodiversity" and "Farm to Fork" strategies.

The truth is that the European Union should above all imagine possible solutions to guarantee food security, now and for the next couple of years, and not give in to the appeals of lobbies wishing to profit from the windfall. There is room for short-term measures, and we would be happy to contribute to them. But the European Union does not have the right to deprive itself of the long-term measures it has finally succeeded in bringing about. It would put its own future at risk.