

**Question for written answer E-005604/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Viorica Dăncilă (S&D)

Subject: Local produce for consumers

Farmers in many EU Member States would like to promote the vegetables produced on their farms, such as tomatoes, cucumbers, aubergines, cabbages, peppers, onions, lettuce and other leafy vegetables and herbs, in the major retail chains. For their part, these chains would also like to promote local produce, in order to support local producers and meet consumer demand for local produce as an alternative to imported produce.

Producers accept and support the implementation of quality control procedures using physical-chemical analysis and data sheets that enable consumers to trace the provenance of the vegetables they buy.

However, farmers sometimes find it difficult to time their crops to achieve the best match between their commitments to shops and supermarkets and their production capacity.

What logistical, technical, financial and risk-management support will the Commission provide for initiatives of this kind, so that more and more locally produced fruit and vegetables can be found on shop shelves and the sector can continue to act as a motor for the local economy in the Member States?