

**Question for written answer E-007230/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Portuguese farmers affected by bad weather

Several regions in central Portugal were recently hit by unexpected heavy rains which destroyed approximately 100 hectares of horticultural crops.

One of the worst hit regions was Lourinhã, where it is estimated that almost two-thirds of horticultural crops will not reach local markets, and the Setúbal region, where up to 90% of the tomato crop was lost in some cases, with overall losses in the area reaching 15-20% of production. Furthermore, some areas of farmland, mainly in Lourinhã, were covered in mud, which could compact the soil.

This natural disaster adds another dimension of damage to the chronic marketing difficulties, constantly low prices and poor yields already faced by these farmers..

Can the Commission therefore say:

1. What forms of support are included in the Programme for the Rural Development of Mainland Portugal (PRODER) under the heading 'Risk minimisation in forest and agro-forest areas'?
2. Is it still possible, under the current framework, to restore agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters and take appropriate preventive action?
3. What support is provided under the measure 'Restoring agricultural production potential'?