

**Question for written answer E-008925/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Projects and financing

In 2013 and 2014 there were hundreds of projects submitted under PRODER, the Portuguese regional development programme. It is estimated that the area under crops could exceed 1 000 hectares within the next few years. Portugal's Centre region has been the main source of blueberry-growing projects, submitted mostly by small-scale producers.

Given that blueberries are a fruit that is meant to be exported fresh, it is essential to increase the level of investment, in particular to finance packaging, transport, and the distribution network.

Many of the investment projects concerned depend on outside financing to the extent that they cannot start without it. Unless, therefore, this funding gap is closed, dozens of projects will be put in jeopardy, bearing in mind that the launch deadline, in most cases, falls at the end of this year.

In view of this crisis, what means can the Commission employ to make up for the shortcomings of the banking system? Is it willing to set up a specific fund to finance the launch of projects already approved?