

**Question for written answer E-009399/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Inês Cristina Zuber (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Possible action and support as dairy quotas come to an end

A few months before the quota system for the dairy sector is abolished, milk producers in Portugal are already getting first-hand experience of its forthcoming effects. In recent weeks, the majority of companies in São Miguel, Azores, have reduced the price paid for each litre of milk delivered to the factories by 1.5 cents. The justifications given for this are the contraction of the European market and the Russian embargo on European products. This is a substantial drop in price for producers. In a scenario where the major countries with the greatest production capacity are going to produce much more, with lower production costs and higher public subsidies, the future of milk producers in the ultra-peripheral areas, unable to compete, will be bleak.

In view of the foregoing, I ask the Commission

1. Is it considering the possibility of proposing a reversal of the decision to end dairy quotas in 2015, given that these – duly adjusted to the needs and relative production capacity of each Member State – are essential to the survival of many thousands of producers and their production in various Member States, as in the case of Portugal?
2. What kind of action and support is under preparation to provide concrete support to these producers?