

**Question for written answer E-010423/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Enrico Gasbarra (S&D)

Subject: Crisis in the Italian olive-oil industry

Olive-oil production in Europe fell dramatically in 2014.

According to ISMEA – the Italian institute for studies, research and information on the agricultural market – olive-oil production this year is likely to be as low as 302 000 tonnes, compared with 464 000 tonnes last year. Estimates suggest that average losses in Italy's main olive-oil producing regions will be between 35% and 50%.

In addition to having a clear impact on employment, the crisis in the olive-oil industry could also have other significant consequences for the internal market, including, for example, an uncontrolled increase in prices and an influx of non-EU olive oil, which will not necessarily provide consumers with the same quality and safety standards.

What urgent action is the Commission planning to take to limit the damage in terms of the stability of the internal olive-oil market? In particular, does the Commission think special compensation and stabilisation measures might be introduced to prevent a hike in prices and to allow for the introduction of special disease-prevention measures?