

**Question for written answer E-010653/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Measures to support rice prices

The European Union produces about 2.5-3 million tonnes of rice a year, on a total surface area of approximately 480 000 hectares. Production is essentially concentrated in southern European countries: Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece and France.

Portugal is far from being self-sufficient, with the sector importing about 110 000 tonnes of husked rice and exporting just 20 000 tonnes. The Portuguese are the biggest per capita consumers of rice in the European Union.

Since 2013, we have been seeing a constant drop in the price paid to producers. With the European Union being one of the world's biggest importers of rice, it is incomprehensible that the prices being paid to producers are not enough to cover their costs or to guarantee the economic viability of their activities.

What is the Commission's assessment of the situation, and what measures is it thinking of promoting to stop prices from collapsing, potentially causing the ruin of thousands of farmers?