

**Question for written answer E-010825/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Fresh fruit

The market management measures for withdrawing fresh fruit – an extremely perishable product – provide options which are channelled through the OPFH [Fruit and Vegetable Producers' Organisations] and incur costs for collection, transport, handling, storage and destruction or conversion. European warehouses are full, and the producer receives 5-8 euros per kilogram of Golden or Gala apples, far below the cost of production.

However, non-harvesting is a way of preventing the product from entering the food chain when a market is already saturated, and which has a positive impact for farms by providing nutrients and organic matter, with no additional processing costs and no impact on the carbon footprint.

Some countries, as mentioned by Germany, Italy, Austria and Poland at the EU Pome Fruit Experts meeting on 20 October 2014, provide support for non-harvesting, although it must be balanced against other withdrawal measures, allowing the producer to decide which is the most suitable.

In the light of the above, does the Commission consider it right for this type of market management measure to be prioritised and EU support to be provided direct to the producer?