

**Question for written answer E-010826/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE) and Ernest Urtasun (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Fresh fruit sector and the OPFH

In Catalunya, as in other parts of Europe, it is unfailingly the case that many producers in the fresh fruit sector are not affiliated to an *Organización de Productores de Fruta y Hortaliza* (OPFH) [Fruit and Vegetable Producers' Organization]. At the European Union Pome Fruit Experts meeting on 20 October 2014, some countries requested more assistance for OPFH, citing the need for greater concentration of supply – a situation that has been and continues to be the subject of much lobbying, often with capital from outside the agricultural sector – as well as the disappearance of small and medium-sized farms. Moreover, the market management measures are aimed at these OPFH, rather than at the producers, a fact which creates discrimination in terms of access and the amount of money that they may ultimately receive.

In the light of the above, and bearing in mind the principle of equal treatment, does the Commission consider it a miscalculation that needs to be corrected that the market management measures are not activated directly by the producers, that they must be channelled through the OPFH by means of their Operational Programmes and that the same terms and amounts are not applied to individual producers?