Question for written answer E-011115/2014
to the Commission
Rule 130
Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: PRODER programme and bankruptcies

Under PRODER, hundreds of new agricultural businesses were set up in Portugal based on projects of dubious profitability. Between 2009 and 2013, the number of undertakings in the agricultural sector shot up to twice the previous figure, from 783 to 1569.

The fact is that a large proportion of these projects are barely sustainable, either because they are disconnected from the environmental, social and economic context, or because they are based on new technologies which end up not fulfilling initial expectations.

The most blatant cases concern the production of blueberries, aromatic plants and hydroponic crops. We have reports of undertakings selling dozens of projects with the same format which were applied in various parts of the country, against payment of 3% of the value of the investment.

Faced with this reality, how is the Commission intending to deal with the need to ensure that applications are duly assessed in accordance with rigorous social and economic viability studies, while also promoting forms of project monitoring as they are being implemented?