

**Question for written answer E-011160/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Payment of aid under the CAP

Spanish farming organisations have reported that the Ministry of Agriculture has introduced a derogation which will enable European aid to be claimed by non-active farmers, as well as for land given over to pasture without the need for any minimum livestock density. This will open the door to aid payments under the CAP being made to absentee farmers, big landowners or even the owners of hunting grounds who do not carry on any real farming. This amendment will perpetuate the abnormal situation in Spain, where there are 900 000 recipients of aid yet only 400 000 registered professional farmers and stock breeders.

This amendment goes against the principles which underlie the latest reform of the CAP, which seeks to direct aid to the true professionals.

1. Is the Commission going to allow a situation to continue which puts absenteeism and subsidy-hunting ahead of the real work of the professionals in the field?
2. Does the Commission not believe that this amendment goes against the distribution of aid with the intention of maintaining the incomes of the true professionals and thus stabilising the rural population?
3. Does the Commission not intend to amend the definition of an active farmer to be able to receive aid?