

**Question for written answer E-000444/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**José Blanco López (S&D)**

Subject: Dairy contracts

The latest data published by the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture show that the average term of milk purchase contracts concluded under the Milk Package barely exceeds six months, although it has been established that, to provide the dairy market with greater stability, the minimum term of such contracts should not be less than twelve months. This situation gives rise to abuses in the relationship between industries and livestock farmers, where the latter are defenceless against the former because there are no mechanisms to introduce balance into the contractual negotiations between them.

1. Does the Commission not think steps should be taken to even out the relationship between industries and livestock farmers so as to avoid situations of abuse?
2. Does the Commission see the push for officially approved long-term contracts as positive and, if so, what recommendations and measures does it consider appropriate to avoid the failures highlighted by the Spanish case?