

**Question for written answer E-001398/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Alessia Maria Mosca (S&D)

Subject: Alarming situation in the sugar sector in Europe

Market data on the sales price of sugar show that this fell worryingly (by around 38.6%) between January 2013 and October 2014, and this trend is expected to continue in the future. A recent Commission study on the prospects for agricultural markets and income in the period 2013-2023 supports these forecasts, estimating that EU sugar prices may fall to EUR 408 per tonne with the abolition of sugar quotas.

In light of the above, can the Commission state:

1. Whether it can immediately launch a joint survey, with the Council, of the situation in the sugar sector in Europe?
2. Whether it does not see an urgent need to find suitable new sales outlets to offset the exceptional supply of sugar on the European market, where stock levels are high and record production levels of around 20 million tonnes are expected in the 2014-2015 harvest year?
3. Finally, does it not feel it would be appropriate to adopt extraordinary measures to ensure a smooth transition with a view to expiry of the quota system in 2017, given the major impact this will have on the profitability of sugar companies, the risks for the sector as a whole and its potentially damaging effects, including on direct and indirect employment in the sector?