

**Question for written answer E-001475/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Clare Moody (S&D)**

Subject: European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) is vital for delivering European environmental objectives contributing to the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020. The European Court of Auditors (ECA) published Special Report No 7 in 2011 entitled 'Is Agri-Environment Support Well Designed and Managed', in which they raised concerns over the rigorousness of the Commission's assessment of key elements in rural development programmes (RDPs). The ECA recommended that, to avoid rushing through draft RDP approval plans by the Commission, there should be a higher contribution of sub-measures with higher environmental potential. This is to ensure that agri-environmental expenditure is targeted effectively. The RDPs can also be subject to delay owing to the Commission prioritising the MFF review.

1. Can the Commission explain what action is being taken to address the ECA's recommendations?
2. Can the Commission guarantee that Member State RDPs will at least maintain the level of commitment made during the 2007-2013 programming period as far as their agri-environmental budget is concerned, as required in recital 22 of the EAFRD regulation?
3. Can the Commission state how it will ensure that there is better integration of planned accounting exercises so that future planned review processes are not at risk of being rushed or interrupted?