

**Question for written answer E-002930/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ole Christensen (S&D)

Subject: Payments to farmers on islands not connected by a bridge and residence obligation

Under Article 48 of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, payments may be made to farmers, whose holdings are fully or partly situated in areas with natural constraints designated by Member States.

The provision does not state that the farmers concerned must be resident in the designated areas. It specifies that Member States cannot add or remove payment conditions. Denmark cannot, therefore, introduce a requirement that the recipient of a payment must be resident in designated areas, when a payment is granted under pillar 1.

In view of this, can the Commission explain the background to the regulation considering that there is no residence obligation attached to the receipt of island aid under pillar 1?

Can the Commission also state whether it has considered following up the regulation, for example, by investigating whether payments are being distributed reasonably between residents and non-residents of the designated areas? Will it also look into the consequences of this distribution for the areas?