

**Question for written answer E-002992/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Lorenzo Fontana (NI)

Subject: Mountain farmland

Considering that Europe is currently in the midst of a financial crisis, which is affecting the countries of southern Europe in particular, and given the dire state of the Italian economy, I would like to draw the Commission's attention to the decree published by the Italian government on 28 November 2014, which altered regulations relating to the payment of municipal property tax on mountain farmland.

Following numerous protests, the decree was modified with Legislative Decree No 4 of 24 January 2015. However, this merely introduced an extension to the terms of the original legislation and did not radically change it in any way.

As a result, the problems remain and the detrimental effect of this further financial burden on landowners, who may be forced to pay tax on infertile mountain land, could cause damage far outweighing any alleged benefits to the State coffers.

Considering the focus placed on mountainous regions by the European Union, in particular in relation to its policies for the development of disadvantaged areas, and without prejudice to the competences of the Member States concerning taxation:

1. Does the Commission agree that this policy implemented by the Italian government could threaten the stability of these regions?
2. Does it not feel that investments made over the years to encourage people to continue to inhabit mountain land could now be at risk due to policies such as this?