Question for written answer E-003214/2015 to the Commission Rule 130 Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Crisis prevention and management instruments

Commission data on fruit and vegetable producer organisations show a very low rate of use of crisis prevention and management instruments, particularly in relation to harvest insurance. Of the 1 599 recognised producer organisations across the Member States, only 67 made use of these instruments between 2008 and 2010 even though many incidents occurred, both health and weather-related.

Green harvesting, non-harvesting, training and setting-up of mutual funds were virtually not used at all. One factor is doubtless the complexity of the procedures involved, as well as the small size of many producer organisations. It might be pointed out that this instrument forms the basis of the Farm Bill recently adopted in the United States.

How would the Commission explain the fact that these instruments, which are badly needed given the risks involved in fruit and vegetable production, have not been adequately used by fruit and vegetable producers?

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