

**Question for written answer E-003215/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Support for producer organisations

The number of fruit and vegetable holdings fell significantly between 2003 and 2010 (by 39.1%). This is a sharper fall than the overall decline recorded in the total utilised agricultural area (UAA) and the total number of agricultural holdings (-0.7% and -20.0% respectively).

The fact that thousands of holdings have been abandoned has been accompanied by an increase in the rate of organisation. The proportion of the total value of fruit and vegetable production in the EU marketed by producer organisations/associations of producer organisations rose from 43% in 2010 to 47% in 2012. This rate nevertheless remains low, and there are wide disparities within the EU. Thousands of small and medium-sized family farms still do not belong to any producers organisation.

Given this situation, the fact that only a third of the funds available have actually been used gives cause for concern. EU funding for producer organisations amounts to only 1.1% of the value of their marketed production, when this figure could be as high as 4.1%.

Can the Commission say what steps it will take to reverse this trend, with particular regard to policies to support producer organisations and the requirements for their recognition, in order to ensure that CAP support reaches those who need it?