

**Question for written answer E-003461/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Louis Aliot (NI)**

Subject: Organic farming - ban on mixed farming

In its draft review of the regulation on organic farming, the European Commission states its intention to ban mixed agricultural production. Under such rules, farmers would no longer be allowed to use conventional production methods for part of their produce on an organic agricultural holding.

Farmers say that this is nonsensical and stress that the decision to have recourse to mixed cropping is not always voluntary as sometimes they have no choice.

Furthermore, keepers of bees whose forage areas are too close to a built-up area would no longer be able to use the 'organic farming' label.

Mixed farming is essential to safeguard the organic sector. The President of Agence BIO considers that such a measure would lead to a drop in certified organic production levels within the European Union and would encourage external imports, which are not subject to the same quality checks.

The Commission's draft review came as a surprise to the whole sector, who had not made any such requests and thus criticised the Commission for an own-initiative proposal. There is currently a real European consensus on rejecting the ban on mixed farming.

Given that the objective is to ensure the stability of an organic farming sector which is rapidly expanding, especially in France, how much room for negotiation is there with the European Commission in terms of the possibility of safeguarding mixed farming?