

Question for written answer E-003714/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Compensation for farmers in Viannos, in Heraklion, Crete, for damage caused by extreme weather conditions

The snowfall, heavy rainfall and gale-force winds that hit the area of Viannos in Heraklion, Crete, between 6 January 2015 and 14 January 2015 and between 10 February 2015 and 12 February 2015 wiped out olive and early vegetable crops.

Olive trees hundreds of years old heavy with olives were unable to withstand the weight of the snow and collapsed, while other smaller olive trees were uprooted and broke.

Other open-air early vegetable crops also sustained massive damage and even greenhouses failed to escape the unrelenting extreme weather conditions.

At the same time, power cuts that lasted for hours in the area of Xerokambos made it impossible for farmers to use heaters and this, combined with the extremely low temperatures, caused all the cucumbers and tomatoes to freeze.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

What measures does it intend to approve to support olive and early vegetable farmers in Viannos in Heraklion, Crete, and to compensate them for the damage caused to their crops by the extreme weather conditions and to what timetable?