

Question for written answer E-003716/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Compensation for olive producers on the island of Thassos for damage caused by extreme weather conditions

Olive production on the island of Thassos was severely damaged in 2014: 70 to 80 % of the crop was destroyed and production in some areas was wiped out completely.

There are approximately 43 000 decares of olive groves in the area and 2 300 farmers depend exclusively on this activity.

According to an expert report, the reduction in the olive crop was caused by the extreme weather conditions that swept through the area on 24 and 25 October 2014, when the island was hit by heavy storms and gale-force-9 winds, which are extremely uncommon in that area.

Despite the fact that the above catastrophe occurred over four months ago, the olive farmers affected have yet to receive any form of compensation.

Unfortunately, however, the farmers in Thassos impoverished by the Memorandum are unable to pay their bills, as this is the second year running that their income has dropped dramatically due to the poor harvest in the area in 2013.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

What measures does it intend to approve to support olive farmers in Thassos and to compensate them for the damage caused to their crops by the extreme weather conditions and to what timetable?