

**Question for written answer E-004095/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: The CAP and the division of land

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development is demanding that the Portuguese Government reimburse 143.4 million euros relating to irregular payments to Portuguese farmers in the years 2009, 2010 and 2011.

The report which forms the basis of this measure had as its starting point an analysis of ten farms in different regions of the country, in which the match between the digital land parcelling and the real properties revealed a series of irregularities.

The irregularities and deficiencies detected in the Portuguese control system for agricultural aid are not rare in the European Union. In December, Greece was penalised with a cut of 88.1 million euros in subsidies to which it was entitled in situations similar to those recorded in Portugal. The problems stem largely from a CAP designed for large farms in Northern and Central Europe which is inappropriate to the system of smallholdings that prevails in southern Europe.

Can the European Commission report on its assessment of the situation and say whether it is willing to review the broad CAP guidelines, by simplifying processes, channelling aid and adapting it to the agricultural structure of southern Europe where family farming predominates?