

Question for written answer E-004751/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Franz Obermayr (NI)

Subject: Threat posed to dairy businesses in mountainous regions

According to statistics, the pressure of competition from low-cost providers from other countries will increase over the next few years. Owing to the abolition of milk quotas in the European Union, some farmers in mountainous regions may no longer be able to afford to keep cows. As from 1 April 2015, there will be no quantity limits for milk production in the EU. The system of allotted quotas that has been practised for the last 37 years will end this year. Competition will become more and more intense; small businesses will be the losers and large businesses the winners. Approaches for a solution are urgently required.

Can the Commission answer the following questions in relation to these worrying facts:

1. Is the Commission aware of the above circumstances?
2. Far too much milk was already produced before. It is now also likely that small businesses will be unable to withstand the expected price competition. What proposals will the Commission present to ensure that smaller businesses are not undermined?
3. Does the Commission believe that action is needed to guarantee fair competition?