

**Question for written answer E-005867/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Recognition of oak and chestnut forests in the new 2014-2020 CAP regulations

As part of the 2014-2020 CAP, discussions are underway to determine which types of land will be eligible for Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) entitlements.

Particular attention has been given to areas in which herbaceous resources are not predominant but where animals are still able to graze. Specifically, it would appear that certain 'enclosed wood' type areas, such as oak and chestnut forests in this case, are not eligible. Yet, these areas meet specific dietary requirements, by providing an essential food source for livestock and enabling farms to be self-sufficient.

In 2011, the former European Commissioner for Agriculture, Dacian Cioloş, in response to a written question submitted by the MEP Michel Dantin on the same topic, said that 'areas either completely or partly covered, not only by grass and other herbaceous fodder crops, but also by certain other species suitable for grazing, such as woody plants, are eligible provided that an agricultural activity is carried out on the land and that the grasses and other herbaceous fodder crops remain predominant'.

Consequently, why is the Commission reconsidering this definition in the new 2014-2020 CAP regulations, in the knowledge that this issue is vital to the survival of large-scale sheep breeding?