

**Question for written answer E-006525/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Mediterranean agriculture: an ongoing issue in the EU

Agriculture is a driver for life, and it must be able to guarantee that citizens have democratic access to food. The FAO has reported that over the last 100 years 75% of diversity in farming and food has been lost. The *Unió de L'auradors*, a farmers' association in Valencia, has highlighted the urgent need for Mediterranean agriculture to remain outside WTO regulations and to ensure it is protected, enhanced and promoted under the agricultural and economic policies of the EU.

1. The Spanish Government and Commissioner Arias Cañete have given the go-ahead for CAP aid to the 30 000 farmers in Valencia receiving under EUR 300 to be stopped once and for all by 2017. Does the Commission believe that this step is beneficial to farming as a whole?
2. Does the Commission not believe that this will leave small farms in Spain in an even more vulnerable position, and that it will force farmers to give up, contributing to depopulation, desertification and increased poverty?
3. Why does rural development funding, for example under the national irrigation plan or LEADER, take two to two-and-a-half years to materialise, rather than being allocated effectively within a shorter timeframe, thereby boosting legal certainty for beneficiaries and their activities?