

**Question for written answer E-006618/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: Support for the preservation of endangered and protected native breeds of domestic animals, among them the Istrian bovine

I am speaking on behalf of the producers of the Istrian bovine (Republic of Croatia), an endangered and protected native domestic breed, and also to voice a concern about the identical predicament of the protected Slavonian Podolian and Busha cattle breeds. We have received information that the proposed Rural Development Programme of the Republic of Croatia for the period 2014-2020 sets the maximum support for the preservation of endangered native and protected breeds at EUR 200 per endangered livestock unit. Yet on page 492 of the Croatian Rural Development Programme for the period 2014-2020 which was sent to the European Commission on 16 July 2014, the support for Istrian cattle in EU/LU was set at EUR 1 115.80.

Since the aid amount of EUR 200 is not sufficient to cover the costs of raising a cattle head, it follows that this will lead to a decline in the number of breeding cattle and the risk of disappearance of the Istrian bovine breed, which counts only 730 breeding heads.

Was it the Commission that asked for the maximum aid amount to be set at EUR 200/LU for the preservation of endangered native and protected breeds in Croatia, which also includes the Istrian bovine and the other aforementioned cattle breeds?

What are the reasons for reducing the level of support for the preservation of endangered cattle breeds in Croatia given that, according to expert data, after deducting the potential aid per cattle head there remains the excess cost of HRK 11 000 (about EUR 1 400)?