

**Question for written answer E-008374/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Pavel Poc (S&D)**

Subject: Food security and the Global Crop Diversity Trust

By 2050 the world's population is expected to increase considerably, likely exceeding 9 billion; conservative estimates suggest an increase in global food demand of at least 50 % over the same period. Simultaneously, crop diversity has plummeted over the last century: every country has seen a loss of at least 80 % of its food varieties. Today, over 60 % of our food worldwide comes from only three crops: wheat, maize and rice.

In order to protect the fundamental variety of food crops available throughout the world, the Commission signed in 2004 the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Its goals include the establishment of a global system to provide farmers, plant breeders and scientists with access to plant genetic materials. The FAO also created the Global Crop Diversity Trust with the mandate of securing crop diversity in gene banks around the world, including the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, the ultimate back-up to safeguard world agriculture, storing safely over 860 000 crop varieties.

No funding has been allocated to date by the EU institutions to help the Crop Trust achieve its mission.

Does the Commission intend to financially support the mission embodied by the Crop Trust?