

**Question for written answer E-010511/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Viorica Dăncilă (S&D)

Subject: Sugar production

Over the last 18 months, sugar prices have fallen by almost 40 % in a number of Member States, directly affecting the incomes of thousands of sugar beet growers and threatening to put an end to beet sugar production, as well as cane sugar refining.

The fall in sugar prices is due to measures taken over the last two years to increase supply, with more sugar being imported under preferential customs arrangements, coupled with record beet production and continued restrictions on EU sugar exports.

These measures have led to the accumulation of massive stocks of white sugar, for which, as a result of sales quotas and export restrictions, there is no outlet. At the same time, the world's leading sugar producers are constantly calling for protection and subsidies at local level, thereby creating a distorted global market and forcing European producers to sell below cost.

In view of this:

What measures are being envisaged by the Commission to facilitate private sugar storage aid over a given period, so as to protect sugar producers until the market balance is restored?