

**Question for written answer E-010862/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Matthias Groote (S&D)**

Subject: Permanent grassland

Since 2009, there has been a requirement in the EU's Common Agricultural Policy that arable land that is not ploughed within five years automatically becomes permanent grassland. A judgment of the European Court has confirmed the validity of this requirement.

In Germany, this means that in practice land users regularly plough their fields and partially sow them with crops, so they do not become permanent grassland and thus lose value. Land users originally supported the conversion of arable land into pastureland and meadows, but subject to the assurance that the land could be used again for other purposes and thus not lose value.

How can the Commission square the conflicting requirements of the conservation measures contained in the CAP and of land users?

What legislative changes are being planned in practice and when are they expected to be announced?