

**Question for written answer E-011337/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Family farm sustainability in Romania

The main cause of poverty in rural Romania is low agricultural productivity, mostly because poor small-scale farmers do not have the collateral to secure loans that would enable them to invest in agricultural inputs and equipment to improve their incomes. Of the approximately 3.9 million farm holdings in Romania, the majority are small-scale farmers, which are under increasing pressure owing to loss of economic viability and failure to provide adequate living conditions for young farmers. However, it can be argued that small-scale family farms are more productive than larger industrial farms and the very high estimated value of the ecosystem services provided by them, suggests that they merit strong policy recognition and support. They consider the Commission's package of seed regulations a threat to agro-biodiversity and to traditional farm management. They also require clear guidance too for the European support measures that are not easily accessible to the smaller family farmers.

Taking into account the above, what financial instruments does the Commission have available to support the small-scale farmers in Romania and what is the Commission planning to do in order to help the Romanian authorities and the citizens better understand and use the European regulations and funds?