Question for written answer E-011343/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Measures to prevent food waste

In Europe, more than 80 million people are living in poverty, many of whom find it difficult to feed their families. Nevertheless, every night, every supermarket in Europe throws away more than 40 kg of food which is still fit to eat.

In France, there is now legislation under which French supermarkets must donate unsold food which is fit to eat. Back in 2012, the mayor of Herstal (Belgium) brought in a similar rule, which was then extended to cover the whole of Wallonia. There is an increasing number of calls for similar legislation to be passed at EU level.

What is more, some people consider this step to be a way of preventing tens of millions of children all over the world from going to bed hungry every night, because every night supermarkets throw away tonnes of food that is perfectly fit to eat – i.e. a third of the total amount of food we produce.

The UN has made reducing food waste by half a worldwide goal. What has the EU done? Is the Commission planning to act on the calls from an increasing number of citizens, and in line with the legislation adopted in France, by including this measure in its circular economy strategy?