

**Question for written answer E-011866/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Recasting of Directive 2011/7/EU on combating late payment in commercial transactions

The food-supply chain is international in large measure and is particularly important to the EU single market. Cross-border trade between EU Member States accounts for 20 % of total EU food production.

There are currently major negotiating-power discrepancies in relationships between those involved in the supply chain, and these can lead to unfair commercial practices (UCPs). These UCPs systematically translate to squeezes on the prices paid to producers, and to the imposition of profoundly unfair commercial practices that clearly harm producers.

The impact Directive 2011/7/EU on combating late payment in commercial transactions has been having is far from what was intended. Furthermore, it provides for a maximum payment deadline of 30 days for public bodies, while extending this deadline to 60 days for private companies.

Producers' associations are calling for the Late Payment Directive to be recast to reduce the maximum payment deadline, and to create mechanisms making this actually enforceable on the ground for the benefit of farmers and stockbreeders. Is the Commission prepared to meet these demands?