

Question for written answer E-012554/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Use of agricultural insurance by farmers in the EU

On 1 September 2015 the worst storm in decades destroyed almost 6 000 hectares of crops – mostly vines – in Spain's La Rioja region. The damage caused was particularly devastating given that the storm occurred just before the picking season, and there is no time for the vines and grapes affected to recover.

Initial reports suggest that only around 20% of the crop is insured. The difficult situation in which many farmers find themselves and the high costs involved in insuring crops means that even with subsidies many farmers do not take out insurance, or if they do the coverage is very limited. In the specific case of La Rioja, the regional and national authorities provide EUR 8 million a year to help pay for agricultural insurance.

There are many other agricultural areas across Europe in which insurance is not being taken out, and these areas too are running the risk of similar disasters occurring.

Is the Commission planning to mount a campaign to raise awareness among Europe's farmers about the need for them to insure their crops in order, as far as possible, to prevent similar situations from occurring?

Would it be prepared to provide funding to help pay for such insurance, as a complement to the support already being provided by Member State governments?