

**Question for written answer E-012738/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE) and Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz (ALDE)

Subject: Crisis in the EU farming sector

One of the main objectives of the common agricultural policy (CAP) is to ensure farmers have a fair standard of living. Farmers play a vital role in safeguarding employment and communities in rural areas, as well as in conservation of the environment and our landscape.

The number of farmers forced to give up farming because of unfair prices which make a decent standard of living impossible, grows daily.

The current CAP contains tools to strengthen the farmers' position in the food chain but these have proved insufficient. The prices farmers are paid are still all too often too low to cover production costs. The Commission has proposed a series of interim measures, such as the EUR 500 million package, but it has not tackled the structural problem.

Bearing the foregoing in mind:

Does the Commission plan to introduce structural measures to tackle the increasing volatility of farming prices and the need for a better price spread in the food chain?

Does the Commission intend to propose a mandatory code of good practice for the food and farming chain, as the voluntary code has for years now proved to be ineffective?

Is the Commission thinking of revising the level of intervention prices in the milk and dairy sector, as current intervention prices are ineffective and out of step with the current situation?