

**Question for written answer E-013068/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Barbara Kappel (ENF)

Subject: Russia and sanctions

On 22 June, the European Union extended the sanctions against Russia until 31 January 2016. A temporary deterioration in trade relations between the EU and Russia has now transformed into a longer-term reduction in export and tourism demand in general. According to a study by the Austrian Institute for Economic Research, this has wiped out up to 45 000 jobs and EUR 2.9 billion of added value in Austria alone. Exports of processed foodstuffs have slumped by more than 50 % since the summer of 2014, a circumstance which has been further aggravated by the simultaneous abolition of the milk quota. Throughout the EU, up to two million jobs are said to be in danger as a result of these sanctions.

The decline in sales to Russia is also a result of the stark increase in the price of European products, as the rouble has considerably depreciated against the euro since the middle of 2014. This is also partially attributable to the sanctions.

1. What does the Commission estimate to be the economic damage of the sanctions to the EU and its Member States?
2. What measures has the Commission put in place to mitigate the negative effects of the sanctions on European producers and consumers?
3. In this regard, what is the Commission's assessment of the demands from agriculture and industry to at least water down the sanctions?