

**Question for written answer E-014116/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Matteo Salvini (ENF)

Subject: Distortion of milk prices - crisis in the Italian dairy sector

In Italy, since 2008, the crisis in the dairy sector has resulted in a reduction in the number of dairy farmers which, on average, has been falling by an annual rate of 4.2%, leaving only 35 000 operational livestock buildings. In 2014, Italy produced 110 million quintals of milk. Given this production capacity, Italy has to import 86 million quintals of milk every year. Moreover, every quintal that is not produced in Italy and is made up for by imports means a loss of jobs locally. Last but not least, in Italy, farmgate milk prices do not even cover the cost of production, despite the fact that consumer prices have increased by up to 500%.

Can the Commission therefore answer the following questions:

- Will it look into the matter in detail by analysing the causes of the current milk price distortions?
- Will it call on the Italian authorities to take an interest in this issue?