

**Question for written answer E-015693/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)

Subject: The effects of the CAP on small and medium-sized farmers

The Eurostat study on the agricultural sector in the EU is revealing about the objectives and results of the CAP. In the decade 2003-2013, over four million farms in the EU (27%) disappeared while the agricultural area remained stable at 170 million hectares. 55.8% of farmers are over the age of 55. In Greece 14% of rural households disappeared during this period. The data also show the upward trend in the average area per holding and the trend towards a concentration and centralisation of agricultural land and production in the hands of large-scale capitalist farmers adept at exploiting the CAP.

At the same time, the prices attained by small producers are extremely low, food sufficiency and quality are deteriorating, the cost of production is rising and ordinary working families have to pay exorbitant prices for their food. The new CAP is the last nail in their coffin and the Greek government is aiding and abetting the crime against poor and less well-off farmers by launching a tax onslaught eroding their meagre income, reducing the refund of excise on fuel, increasing their social security contributions to OGA and other barbaric measures directed against ordinary working people.

What is the Commission's view on the fact that small and medium-sized farmers are being wiped out by the CAP in conjunction with the measures taken by the SYRIZA - ANEL government within the framework of the Troika and the Third Memorandum?