

**Question for written answer E-000545/2016**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Michel Dantin (PPE)**

Subject:     Obstacles preventing non-Polish EU citizens from working as farmers in Poland

The Polish law of 16 September 2011 amending the law on the management of State-owned agricultural property stipulates that the Property Management Agency has the right to propose a change to leases on State-owned land whereby the area of cultivatable land covered by a given lease is reduced by 30%, with no provision for compensation. If they reject the proposal, farmers lose their right of first refusal to the whole area covered and their right to renew the lease, but in return are given the right to purchase the remainder of the land making up the farm, up to a maximum of 500 hectares.

Non-Polish EU citizens were already in a difficult position anyway, in that Poland's EU accession treaty imposes restrictions on the purchase of agricultural land by them for a transitional period which expires in May 2016.

Now a bill suspending the sale of State-owned agricultural land has been published in Poland; the aim of the bill is to ban non-Polish nationals from purchasing agricultural land for a period of five years, which means that non-Polish EU citizens who agreed to the deal referred to above will not be able to purchase the remaining 70% of the land they lease.

Does the Commission have information concerning the conformity of the bill with EU law and the situation of non-Polish EU citizens who are working as farmers in Poland?