

**Question for written answer E-000975/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Pavel Poc (S&D)

Subject: Final conference: preparatory action on EU plant and animal genetic resources in agriculture

The implementation of the preparatory action on EU plant and animal genetic resources (GR) in agriculture, which was supported by Parliament and launched by the Commission in 2014, is coming to its final phase. This two-year project is aimed at several crucial aspects of GR in agriculture, such as delivering inputs on how to improve communication, knowledge exchange and networking among all stakeholders interested in activities related to the conservation of GR in agriculture in all 28 Member States.

According to the tender specifications of the preparatory action, the contractor must organise a final validation and dissemination conference to present the findings, results and recommendations. This conference should bring together a wide range of relevant actors involved in GR-related issues at EU, national, regional, and/or local level.

Unfortunately, it seems the consortium and the Commission have decided to hold the conference in Brussels on 9 June 2016 during a Strasbourg plenary session. Given that this significant event will shape the future of agricultural biodiversity policies in Europe but that its timing clearly prohibits Members of the European Parliament from attending, I would like to know the reasons for this decision.