

**Question for written answer E-001181/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Jørn Dohrmann (ECR)

Subject: Cost-effectiveness of EU rural development support

The European Court of Auditors has recently published its Special report No 20/2015: 'The cost-effectiveness of EU Rural Development support for non-productive investments in agriculture'.

The audit reveals that three quarters of the EU-funded projects audited showed clear signs of the costs being either unreasonably high or insufficiently justified, and that only five of 28 audited projects were cost-effective. As that is only a spot check the problem may be even worse. The auditors noted that the Member States did not check whether the claimed expenses were actually incurred, or that they accepted the highest bid without asking for any justification. Even though the support continues for the rest of the 2014-2020 period, the Commission and the Member States have still not corrected most of these weaknesses, as they have not done enough to identify them in time.

Can the Commission confirm the substance of the report?

What will the Commission do to remedy these serious problems?

When will the Commission remedy these problems, given that the programming period lasts from 2014 to 2020?