

Question for written answer E-001534/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Pig meat producers at a disadvantage because of increased private storage following Russian embargo

Private pig meat storage is to the advantage of Member States with healthy economies in which farmers are protected by agreements within the sector from sudden market fluctuations. This is not the case in Romania, where business is conducted from the outset on an opportunistic basis, resulting in minimum profit margins for primary pig meat producers. Furthermore, the same market measures cannot be applied to differently structured markets.

The Romanian market is supplied by domestic pig meat producers and slaughterhouses. Pork intended for the meat industry comes almost exclusively from within the EU and is frequently frozen. Following the Russian embargo, a surplus of frozen meat has accumulated in EU storage and is now reaching expiry date. Romania pig meat producers are now finding it impossible to sell to the domestic processing industry, which prefers to purchase these stocks of frozen cuts at reduced prices. In the meantime, stocks of cheap pig meat in private storage are accumulating within the EU.

In view of this:

What action is being taken by the EU to protect countries such as Romania that find themselves in this situation?