

Question for written answer E-001919/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)

Subject: Effectiveness of the common agricultural policy

The common agricultural policy (CAP) has long been accused of ineffectiveness. Rather than acting as a catalyst for development, CAP spending, and direct payments in particular, plays more of a social role, and the funding of programmes for rural areas is poorly targeted and often not cost-effective. This is borne out by checks run on the system by bodies such as the European Court of Auditors, which, in February 2016, criticised the way in which EU funds are spent in rural areas. The court found that many of the projects funded have failed to boost development, and that better use could be made of the funds available.

In its report, the court stated that the schemes funded during the last multiannual financial framework period (2007-2013) under the shared management system (Commission and Member States) provided only limited value for money.

It also stated that Member States did not always provide sufficient justification for EU-funded agricultural and rural development projects and that managing authorities failed to give priority to the most cost-effective options (with the projects approved sometimes costing as little as EUR 150 per hectare and at other times as much as EUR 10 000 per hectare).

With reference to the forthcoming mid-term review of the 2014-2020 multiannual financial framework and in view of the need for EU agricultural policy to be reformed, can the Commission say how it will address the problem of ineffective CAP spending and, in this connection, how it will improve cooperation with Member States?