

**Question for written answer E-003094/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Renaud Muselier (PPE)

Subject: Agricultural crisis

The 28 EU agriculture ministers met in Brussels on 14 March 2016 in an attempt to come up with effective measures to address the severe crisis affecting farmers.

One of the French Government's objectives is to stabilise and ultimately reduce milk production. For its part, the dairy industry is counting on the lifting of the Russian embargo, which is hitting exports hard. Whilst the French Government is to be congratulated on its diplomacy, which has brought progress in the form of statements by the Commission and the Presidency, the decision to apply Article 222 of the regulation on the common organisation of agricultural markets unfortunately means that the reduction in milk production will only be voluntary, not mandatory.

The reduction targets will have to be set in conjunction with the Member States and private operators, who will have the final say. The danger is that while France and other countries in continental Europe will actually cut their production, the Nordic countries will continue to overproduce.

Against this background, how does the Commission plan to take fair and sustainable measures to ensure that all Member States reduce their milk production?