

**Question for written answer E-004003/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Viorica Dăncilă (S&D)

Subject: Women entrepreneurs in rural communities

Women are the backbone of the agricultural sector and rural communities. Thanks to their education and skills, women in rural communities make a significant contribution to traditional economic activities. They are the stabilising and the modernising force in rural societies, and they should therefore be more closely involved in entrepreneurial activity so that they are able to realise their personal projects and be independent. The European economy needs more entrepreneurs in order to compete internationally, and it needs more women entrepreneurs in rural communities in what is a predominantly male sector. This could offer a model for women in other EU regions, with a view to diversifying their economic activities, utilising their potential and transmitting customs, crafts and traditions that are in danger of being lost to future generations.

What steps is the Commission considering with a view to encouraging the Member States to develop strategies geared to regular exchanges of best practice and experience among women entrepreneurs in rural communities, and boosting the number of women entrepreneurs in those communities – in a predominantly male sector – by making it easier in both practical and legal terms for women to embark on entrepreneurial activities in agriculture?