

**Question for written answer E-004440/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hannu Takkula (ALDE)

Subject: Commitment to voluntary production limits by all Member States

The EU milk market is suffering from severe over-production. The Commission has proposed the voluntary limitation of production as a solution. The legal basis for this measure is Article 222 of the CMO Regulation. According to the Commission, it would be funded at national level.

The milk crisis and the plight of farms could be rapidly overcome by limiting production. This will only work if all Member States participate. In the worst-case scenario, a voluntary limit would result in production being concentrated in the most efficient areas while the others carry the can. The risk is that milk production would drop in the most affected areas, such as Northern Finland, which has been hardest hit by the sanctions on Russia.

How does the Commission propose to commit all Member States to limiting production voluntarily?

Has the Commission also considered funding from the EU budget with a view to making this commitment more effective?