

Question for written answer E-004592/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: EU horticultural production and competitiveness of the sector

European horticultural producers find it extremely difficult to access aid under the first pillar of the CAP, since they have no historic reference for basic payment entitlements and the methods for calculating aid are unsuited to market gardening structures. Moreover, no specific information, compensation or regulation mechanism has been provided for this sector.

This comes on top of the problem posed by the fact that indications of geographical origin are not mandatory in the EU. European horticultural producers are thus placed at a disadvantage by comparison with third-country producers and struggle to gain recognition for their expertise. Research shows, however, that a majority of consumers would be willing to buy European horticultural products.

1. What steps will the Commission take to respond to the difficulties faced by horticultural producers in the face of competition from outside Europe?
2. What general or sectoral measures would it like to introduce to support the horticultural sector in Europe?