

**Question for written answer E-004649/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Miltiadis Kyrkos (S&D)**

Subject: CAP and tobacco

The exclusion of tobacco from products receiving direct payments has had substantial implications for the social and material well-being of extensive areas of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace. This is the poorest region of Greece, with much of the population relying entirely on (Basma) tobacco cultivation for a living, although some growers have now begun to cultivate other crops.

In view of this:

- Can the Commission say whether assistance can be given to growers, independently of the crop being cultivated, subject to fulfilment of environmental protection and integrated farm management conditions?
- Would it be possible and in line with the new CAP provisions to facilitate the take-up of funding in mountain and disadvantaged tobacco-producing areas such as Thrace by allowing individual Member States to channel unused appropriations towards areas of their national territory judged to have suffered as a result of unequal fund allocation?