

**Question for written answer E-007441/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Pulses and food security

In a 2001 report, the FAO defined food security as a situation that exists when 'all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life'. Many people, however, cannot afford to include meat, fish or dairy in their diets because those products are too expensive, and those people are therefore at risk of malnutrition owing to a lack of protein and iron.

Pulses are an affordable source of protein and minerals with a long shelf life. They can be stored for long periods of time without losing their nutritional value. What is more, some pulses, such as the pigeon pea (*Cajanus cajan*) and the Bambara groundnut (*Vigna subterranea*) are resistant to drought and arid environments, meaning that they are an excellent alternative food source for remote areas.

In the light of the foregoing, and bearing in mind that 2016 is the International Year of Pulses, is the Commission promoting the production of local pulses its development aid for third countries with arid climates in order to foster food security? How?