

**Question for written answer E-008033/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**José Inácio Faria (ALDE)**

Subject: European Court of Auditors Special Report

To ensure that biofuels placed on the EU market are sustainable, the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) lays down a number of sustainability criteria to be respected by economic operators. The recently published European Court of Auditors (ECA) report states that the certification systems that have been put in place are seriously compromised and are basically not fit for purpose. Specifically, the certification system for the sustainability of biofuels agreed by the Commission is described as 'not fully reliable'.

Biofuels that do not meet the criteria set by the RED defraud EU citizens, undermine EU biofuel producers and, in the case of crop-based biofuels, take income away from EU farmers.

What immediate steps are being taken by the Commission to address the shortcomings identified in the ECA Special Report?

Why have the problems identified by the ECA persisted over a number of years without any action being taken by the Commission?