

Question for written answer E-008403/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: The International Day of Rural Women and promoting equality in the EU

Since 2007, 15 October has been the International Day of Rural Women, in recognition of the vital contribution that women in rural areas make 'in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty'.

The women concerned play a pivotal role in the modernisation and development of rural areas. They account for over 20% of the world's population and do around 80% of family farm work. In Spain alone, around six million women and their families live in rural areas.

Shared ownership of farms is one of the factors that enables women in rural areas to participate in the running of those farms on an equal footing and make social security contributions, thereby qualifying for the relevant benefits. This also helps combat depopulation, which is one of the threats to the survival of our rural villages.

What measures are available to the EU with a view to combating the economic and social vulnerability of women in rural areas and rectifying the situation with regard to the unequal opportunities enjoyed by men and women?

Has the Commission done anything, or is it planning to do anything in future, to foster measures to promote shared ownership of farms in the EU?