

**Question for written answer E-008719/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Norbert Erdős (PPE)

Subject: Complaints about discrimination among Member States

1. On the basis of the issues raised in Questions E-000706/2016, E-002939/16 and E-002940/2016, does the Commission consider the discriminatory treatment of Member States to be justified in that until 2009 no appropriate complaints register was available, and does it not fear that situations indicative of breaches of the principle of equal treatment may increase Euroscepticism in the 'new' Member States, bearing in mind the particular sensitivity of the region?
2. According to the case-law of the Court of Justice, the compatibility of Member States' laws on the ownership and use of farmland with European law depends on two sets of criteria which that case-law regards as distinct from each other. One set concerns the fundamental economic freedoms and the aims of the CAP, as well as the relationship to one another of the Member States' legitimate compelling reasons of public interest (and then the subsequent individual assessment looking at the particular Member State's legislation as a whole), while the other set concerns the uncertainty which has arisen with regard to the Member States' room for manoeuvre over property policy because the above set of conditions has not been worked out. Does the Commission acknowledge that the above statements are true?
3. Aside from the objectives established by the case-law of the Court of Justice and by the Treaties, does the Commission consider that, from the point of view of European law, the compatibility of Member States' law on the ownership and use of farmland with the fundamental economic freedoms can be grounded on a 'specific historical cause particular to a Member State'?