

**Question for written answer E-008954/2016**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Notis Marias (ECR)**

Subject: Measures to support olive producers in Crete and efficiently control the olive fruit fly

Farmers in Crete face serious problems. According to estimates, the 2016-2017 olive-producing period will be one of the worst in recent years. Production is expected to fall by up to 60% compared with last year and by 70% compared with two years ago.

Prolonged drought has caused severe damage to olive groves and the olive fruit. Furthermore, even the small quantity of olives that was eventually produced despite this year's drought has suffered irreparable damage from the olive fruit fly. Efficient olive fruit fly control requires spraying at least five or six times a year. In recent years, because of cutbacks stemming from the Memorandum of Understanding, producers have been spraying only two to three times a year.

The worst part, though, is the damage to olive trees. This has led to a huge decline in olive oil production, which is expected to cause great financial loss to olive producers, mills and processors.

Olive producers are now faced with damaged property, loss of income and unbearable taxes imposed as a result of the Memorandum.

What will the Commission do:

1. To directly support Cretan olive producers who face the above problems?
2. To put in place direct and efficient olive fruit fly control measures?