

**Question for written answer E-009009/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Hannu Takkula (ALDE)**

Subject: Sale of milk products held in intervention storage

Farm gate milk prices gradually began to rise in August 2016, ending a two-year downward trend. In spite of this development, the Commission has now decided to start selling intervention stocks of milk products. It should be noted that milk producers have not all been cutting their production, but have for the most part made a written commitment to producing less. To sell intervention stocks at this stage will affect market prices and push down farm gate prices.

Given that farm gate prices have lately been rising, why has the Commission started selling intervention stocks of milk products, even though this will obviously have an adverse impact on farm gate prices?