

**Question for written answer E-001736/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Franck Proust (PPE)**

Subject: Delay with CAP support payments in France

Since November 2016, French farmers, particularly in my constituency, have been up in arms about the lengthy delay in making support payments under the common agricultural policy (CAP) for the years 2015 and 2016. The situation is compounded by the fact that many farmers invested very heavily to convert to organic farming following the reform of the CAP, reassured in so doing by the introduction of support for organic production and agri-environmental measures (AE). However, having waited two years for this support to materialise, they are now in a perilous situation financially. The French authorities' explanations (blaming, for example, an IT problem and the need to correct the register of plots of land) are simply not good enough and farmers are becoming increasingly worried.

1. Does the Commission have any specific information that might shed light on this failure to get the CAP support out to the farmers?
2. In June 2016, the Commission suspended until 15 October 2016 the application of late payment penalties for the delay. That deadline having expired, has the Commission taken steps to speed up the payments?
3. Does the 'omnibus' regulation include provisions to simplify the support payments scheme so as to prevent any recurrence of such problems? If so, what are the Commission's plans in that regard?