

**Question for written answer E-004439/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Norbert Erdős (PPE)

Subject: Risk management of natural disasters that have affected grape growers

Hungarian grape growers' crops have sustained natural damage several times in recent years. In risk management systems, newly planted vines not yet in production require special damage-managing methods. As the grape is a perennial crop, we cannot talk about crop failure, but the damage represents a significant financial loss to Hungarian grape growers.

Spring frosts followed by unusually intense hail storms in the summer caused significant damage to young, newly planted plantations in the Lake Balaton wine region in 2016 and in the Mátra wine region in 2017. Those natural disasters seriously set back the growth of vines with the potential to produce high-quality grapes. In a number of cases, the damage was bad enough to justify replacing entire lots, as the dead vine stocks could not be replaced economically.

The national risk management systems under Regulation 1305/2013/EU and the two implementing regulations provide protection to growers only in the event of crop failure. Accordingly, Hungarian laws cannot compensate for damage sustained by the owners of newly planted vines not yet in production.

How can the owners of newly planted wine-grape vines not yet in production who are included in the national risk management system in accordance with Regulation 1305/2013/EU be compensated if they are hit by extreme natural disasters?

How does the Commission plan to establish a scheme to compensate the growers concerned?