

**Question for written answer E-005440/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Francesc Gambús (PPE)

Subject: Emergency in the fruit sector

Since Russia introduced an import ban on agricultural products from the EU, market prices in the fruit sector have been subject to constant downward pressure, with prices in many cases falling below production costs. That situation is jeopardising many family-run smallholdings and poses a risk of rural depopulation, as young farmers cannot envisage a bright future in the countryside. In view of the above:

- Does the Commission consider that the responses given to the agricultural sector in the implementing regulations introduced since the onset of the crisis in 2014 are adequate?
- Given that the automation of the mechanisms laid down in the CMO Regulation for situations of serious market disturbance has been a persistent complaint within the sector for years, is the Commission considering taking into account that complaint and reforming the mechanisms?
- A large number of amendments tabled to the European Parliament's resolution on the CAP of December 2016 criticised how the CMO Regulation handles the prevention of market price volatility in the agricultural sector. What is the Commission's view on those criticisms?