

**Question for written answer E-001116/2018**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Michel Dantin (PPE)**

Subject: Land ownership in Poland

The Polish law of 16 September 2011 amending the law on the management of state-owned agricultural property stipulates that the Property Management Agency has the right to propose a change to leases whereby the area of cultivatable land covered by a given lease is reduced by 30%, with no provision for compensation. If they reject the proposal, farmers lose their right of first refusal to the whole area covered and their right to renew the lease; in return, they are entitled to purchase the remainder of the land making up the farm, up to a maximum of 500 hectares. Under the terms of Poland's accession to the EU, during a transitional period which expired in May 2016, restrictions were imposed on the purchase of agricultural land by non-nationals. Foreigners wishing to buy land needed to obtain authorisation from the Polish Ministry of Agriculture.

Then on 14 April 2016 a further law banned non-nationals from purchasing agricultural land for a period of five years, thus unilaterally extending the transitional arrangement agreed by the EU. The new law amended the previous provisions with the effect that non-nationals who agreed to the deal to reduce a holding by 30% are prevented from purchasing the remaining 70% of the land they lease. Leases to companies are no longer renewable and there is no provision for compensation for investments made.

Can the Commission confirm whether these provisions are compatible with EU law, and what information does it have about the situation of European farmers in Poland who are not nationals of the country?