

**Question for written answer E-001650/2018**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Norbert Erdős (PPE)**

Subject: Proposals for developing the EU's sheep and goat sectors

I have recently submitted a number of proposals in Parliament for several reports, including one on the future of the sheep and goat sector, which aim to develop this sector in the EU, which has unfairly been sidelined in recent times.

One of these was to urge the development of a production-linked ewe-premium system (VCS) which could support small-scale sheep and goat farmers, increase the effectiveness of the production of farmers trying to live from keeping sheep and goats who produce primarily for the market, and improve product quality. In its documentation in this field the EU repeatedly stresses that 'the principal Community objective is to improve the effectiveness of production and the quality of the finished product'.

Another of my proposals states that I consider the payment of grassland subsidies under the first pillar to be necessary only in the case of farmers keeping sheep and goats, beef cattle and equidae who keep ruminants at a density of 0.2 large animal units per hectare on permanent grassland for which they wish to apply for a subsidy. This might help prevent farmers who keep no animals on their land but only perform compulsory mowing from benefiting from grassland subsidies.

Under a third proposal, I would permit grazing on all poor-quality, dry grasslands, also from an environmental perspective.

- (1) What is the Commission's professional opinion of my first proposal?
- (2) What is the Commission's professional opinion of my second proposal?
- (3) What is the Commission's professional opinion of my third proposal?