

Question for written answer E-002076/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (EFDD)

Subject: Greening the Common Agricultural Policy

The greening of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and direct payments aims to encourage farmers to diversify their crops, maintain permanent grasslands and turn 5% of arable land into 'ecological focus areas'. However, Article 39 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), relating to the CAP, states that the primary objective of the CAP is to 'increase agricultural productivity'. European farmers, and French farmers in particular, already face very strong competition, especially from North American growers. The reality of the situation today is that one French farmer commits suicide every two days. Behind these tragedies looms the end of the human-scale farming which is more respectful of the environment and public health. Making this help for already-exhausted farmers conditional on the achievement of such objectives, however laudable they may be, puts farmers in an impossible situation and, moreover, is incompatible with the objectives laid down in the TFEU.

How does the Commission plan to reconcile the production-driven nature of the CAP, as set out in Article 39 TFEU, with the aforementioned ecological objectives?