

**Question for written answer E-003506/2018  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Susanne Melior (S&D)**

Subject: The dismantling of bureaucracy in the common agricultural policy with the 'yellow card'

With Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/1393, the Commission attempted to facilitate the agricultural grant procedures by introducing reduced sanctions for first-time, small-scale over-declarations, known as the 'yellow card'. This was supposed to be part of dismantling bureaucracy and simplifying the common agricultural policy. However, this has not been entirely successful; on the contrary, it has led to more bureaucracy. The mandatory follow-up inspections were defined in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1394. If a farmer receives a 'yellow card', only half of the usual penalty is applied for this first-time offence, and the farmer is re-inspected the next year. If there is a repeat offence, the suspended half must be repaid. The re-inspections involve very high personnel costs both for the authorities and for the operators themselves.

What is the Commission's opinion on the introduction of the 'yellow card'?

Is it possible that agricultural operators would agree to the full sanction immediately after the first inspection instead of taking the 'yellow card', in order to avoid the expensive follow-up inspection?