

**Question for written answer E-004650/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Urban agriculture - a means to reduce premature deaths in the EU caused by air pollution

EU actions aimed at protecting human health against air pollution did not produce the expected impact according to Special Report No 23/2018 of the European Court of Auditors entitled 'Air pollution: Our health still insufficiently protected'.

This type of pollution causes around 400 000 premature deaths in the EU every year and its health-related external costs amount to hundreds of billions of euros. Although EU policies have contributed to reducing emissions, air quality has not improved at the same pace and there are still considerable adverse effects on human health. However, air quality can be improved by practising urban agriculture, with impressive effects, from ecological to economic and social: reducing CO₂ levels, engaging new industries, job creation, development of biological foods, etc.

In this context, does the Commission intend to develop a strategy for the development of EU urban agriculture?

What actions will the Commission undertake to facilitate changing the EU urban landscape into one that is populated by high-rise vegetable and fruit gardens, on rooftops but also at street level, on the remaining asphalt-free strips, with a positive impact on human health and the environment?