

**Question for written answer E-005457/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Richard Sulík (ECR)

Subject: Eligibility requirements for direct payments

The system of direct payments to farmers is operated jointly by the Commission and the Member States as a part of the common agricultural policy (CAP) regulated mainly by Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 and Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013. The national bodies are responsible for administering the scheme in the relevant countries and they have a certain degree of flexibility in adapting the rules to national conditions.

1. Can Member States set national rules in such a way that farmers will be asked, on submitting a payment request, not only to provide identification but also to demonstrate their relationship to the land in question by appending an appropriate document, i.e. a tenancy agreement or a property deed?
2. Is it possible under the CAP legislation effective up to 31 December 2017, and is it in accordance with the EU legislation effective after 1 January 2018, for a Member State to ask farmers, within the context of a direct payment request, for proof of the legal basis on which they are using an agricultural area?
3. What specific amendments relating to this specific question were brought in with the revision of the CAP regulations effective from 1 January 2018?