

**Question for written answer E-006465/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Improving the status of broom

The Barroso region has recently received global agricultural heritage status from the FAO. In this region, broom (*Pterospartum cantabricum* and *lasianthum*) has been used as a herb and medicinally since time immemorial. It has been commercialised locally and globally and studied extensively at Portuguese universities (Fernando Pessoa University and the Higher Institute of Agronomy at the University of Lisbon).

A number of farmers grow broom (both subspecies) as their main crop, preparing soil, planting, close pruning and encouraging sturdy growth, clearing of weeds, and so on. Against that backdrop, the associations representing those farmers have sought to have those subspecies officially recognised as agricultural crops so that their producers can benefit from farming measures in disadvantaged areas.

Taking into account broom's social and economic impact and its role in boosting biodiversity and ecosystem services and in the conservation of habitats and landscapes, what specific support for crops of that kind is available under the Common Agricultural Policy?