

**Question for written answer E-000736/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI) and Konstantinos Papadakis (NI)

Subject: Meeting the demands of stockbreeders who are mobilising throughout Greece

Small and medium-sized stockbreeders in Greece are mobilising in large numbers in a variety of different ways, including by blocking motorways, in their struggle to survive government policy which is hostile to the interests of ordinary working people and the impact of the CAP, two factors which are exacerbating their problems and forcing them off the land.

For instance, their income fell by 4.9% in 2018, production costs are well above the EU average (e.g. they pay up to EUR 1.40 / litre for fuel and plant protection and fertilizer prices are 20-30% above the EU average) and losses for olive growers and producers are estimated at over EUR 500 million in 2018, for which they bear no responsibility. At the same time, agricultural products are delivered at 'open prices' to marketing and processing groups, which eventually buy them at well below cost price, while the same products are sold to ordinary customers at exorbitant prices, as cartels have developed for products such as cotton and milk.

The SYRIZA government is reacting to this mobilisation of small and medium-sized farmers by fast-tracking legal proceedings against them and has referred 10 representatives of agricultural associations for trial on 1 March 2019.

Given that this is the result of the CAP and government policy, how does the Commission view the predicament facing Greek stockbreeders due to the fall in their income?