

**Question for oral answer O-000069/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 128

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on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

Subject: Measures to address the crisis in the dairy sector

The milk market in Europe is going through a difficult period of low prices and very tight margins. The Milk Market Observatory (MMO) has recently warned that the current slump and the low prices in the milk sector show no signs of lifting. In recent months, the price for raw milk was 13 % lower than the previous five-year average, with continuing declines in whole milk powder prices – down 5 % – and a drop in the average prices for skimmed milk powder and butter.

1. Following the options to tackle the agricultural crisis recently presented by the Council, could the Commission provide details on the immediate and long-term steps to be taken to alleviate pressure on dairy producers?
2. Price transparency and robust market data, as well as risk management mechanisms, are central to the forward-planning and resilience of dairy producers. In light of the fact that last year Parliament called for an increased role for the MMO, what steps does the Commission plan to take to strengthen the role, function and effectiveness of the MMO?

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Deadline for reply: 21.4.2016