

**Question for written answer P-006509/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Davor Ivo Stier (PPE)**

Subject:     Mandarins on the list of products eligible for exceptional support?

Last year, almost half of all mandarin exports from the Neretva Valley ended up in Russia, while this year a record harvest of 80 000 tonnes is anticipated. It is estimated that the total value of the mandarin market in Croatia is roughly EUR 50 million. A large amount of money has been invested up to this point in production materials, and according to assessments from the Neretva Valley, some 10 000 people depend on mandarins as a main or additional source of income. As a result of these investments and of people's hard work, this year it was anticipated that revenues for the sector would amount to EUR 30-40 million. However, Russia's embargo, coupled with an already-difficult economic situation, could result in many mandarin producers collapsing. It is difficult to find alternative markets in a short period. It is clear from the above that mandarin producers may only obtain support through EU compensation funds in order to maintain their traditionally and organically grown mandarin variety. This would save many small and medium-sized enterprises. How can the Commission play a role in resolving this problem, and will mandarins be included on the list of products eligible for exceptional support from the agricultural crisis fund in view of the effects that the Russian sanctions are having?