Question for written answer P-006576/2014
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Measures to mitigate the effects of Russian sanctions against the EU in the agricultural sector

The deterioration in relations with Russia and the imposition of economic sanctions have greatly harmed the agricultural sector in the EU as a whole. The Commission has decided to cushion the impact, but, because resources are limited, the financial aid is being set aside for the food products hit hardest by the sanctions.

This solution is clearly a practical one, but it is also unfair to producers.

One particular problem for Croatia is that mandarins are not among the products to be subsidised. The expectation was that 40% of the Neretva Valley mandarin crop would be exported to the Russian market in 2014. More than 2 000 family farms are directly affected by the sanctions; to put it another way, there are nearly 20 000 people who depend on this crop for their livelihood.

Direct subsidies are never the best solution, especially if they are not apportioned fairly.

Exceptional situations do not lend themselves to regulation by the market.

Will the Commission introduce indirect market stimulation measures in order to generate demand on the European market for foodstuffs intended for the Russian market?

Given that fresh produce is involved, we are looking to the Commission to propose and pursue immediate measures to enable fresh mandarins to be bought up on the EU internal market and/or purchased for processing into medium- or long-life products. Any long-term measures would be laudable, but they would come too late for this year’s harvest.