

**Question for written answer P-010467/2014/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: School Fruit Scheme

Fruit production in Europe is in decline, and some farmers are finding it difficult to market their fruit. Most small farmers do not belong to producers' organisations, and they have little negotiating power in the food chain. Steps should be taken to guarantee that the plans drawn up to implement the School Fruit Scheme encourage short supply chains and local fruit production. If fruit is transported thousands of miles to be distributed in schools, the impact on the environment will be greater and at the same time local producers will be placed at a disadvantage.

What can the Commission do to encourage Member States to purchase locally produced fruit for distribution in schools?

One of the main aims of the School Fruit Scheme is to strengthen the educational aspect, which means not only distributing fruit and vegetables but also encouraging children to adopt healthy eating habits that will stay with them all their lives.

How will the Commission ensure that the nutritional education aspects are also developed, so that children really are encouraged to adopt healthy eating habits?