

**Question for written answer P-010584/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Cultivation and production of truffles in the EU

It is estimated that total worldwide truffle production amounts to 62.5 tonnes each year.

The total estimated economic value of truffle production is some EUR 50 million.

It is estimated that the EU accounts for more than 90% of the world's total annual truffle production and related economic activities.

Global demand for truffles is constantly growing: according to estimates from GET (*'Groupement Européen Tuber'*), demand for truffles on the marketplace is currently reaching some 1000 tonnes each year – 16 times higher than current supply.

A series of studies have shown that the large-scale cultivation of truffles in many areas would have a favourable impact on the quality of life of rural residents. This favourable impact would manifest itself in terms of protection of forests and the environment.

Given that it would take ten years or so for the large-scale production of truffles to become economically viable, the issue of the profitability of cultivation is a serious matter indeed.

Given the enormous potential demand for truffles on the global market and the many benefits that come with cultivating truffles in Europe, what will the Commission do to step up its support for the profitable cultivation and production of truffles in the Member States?