

Question for written answer P-000865/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Solution to the crisis in the dairy sector following the Russian embargo and the abolition of milk quotas

Following the Russian embargo and the abolition of milk quotas, many producers in Romania and elsewhere are suffering severe economic hardship. While endeavouring to emerge from the crisis, they are aware that it is increasingly difficult to remain competitive on the market and propose a possible solution which would have a number of advantages.

Could the Commission consider allowing farmer cooperatives or associations with co-funding from: (a) the EU, (b) national governments, (c) the farmers themselves, to take direct control of abandoned, disused or bankrupt plant, including plant set up using SAPARD or NRDP funding?

This would solve numerous problems:

1. Farmers would become the owners of processing plant and receive added value for their produce accordingly.
2. Consumers would benefit from the availability of authentic national products and a wider choice.
3. Member States would benefit from the economic regeneration of production sectors, creating jobs and budget revenue.
4. Banks and creditors (owners of plant that has been closed down) would recover their outlay.
5. Farming activities could be organised in the form of cooperatives or associations.