

**Question for written answer P-000998/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Norbert Erdős (PPE)

Subject: Modification to the Fuel Quality Directive (ILUC)

One of the Commission's main objectives is to make EU legislation simpler, reduce the costs incurred through legislation and thereby promote the establishment of a framework ensuring clear, rigid and predictable legislation, which in turn will promote growth and job creation.

The primary objective of the 2012 Commission proposal amending the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) and the Fuel Quality Directive (FQD) is to limit the impact of indirect land use change (ILUC) caused by biofuel production. The proposal is based on the findings of a working document from 2008 which provides no scientific evidence whatsoever for the existence of the 'ILUC effect' in the EU. However, the proposal has given rise to grave uncertainty in the first-generation biofuels industry, which had hitherto been operating successfully and receiving funding under the RED. This has held back modernisation of the EU's biofuels industry. Bank loans have been frozen and major investments have stopped. Meanwhile there has been an increase in imports of biofuels from certain South American and South-East Asian countries where increased production is causing the most serious direct and indirect land use change.

The Commission must withdraw the ILUC proposal in the interest of rationalisation and safeguarding the investment climate.

1. What evidence does the Commission have, from the period since the Fuel Quality Directive came into force, to show that the EU's biofuels industry has had an effect on food prices or resulted in land grabbing?
2. According to the Commission's calculations, how many producers and firms would go out of business if the European biofuels industry were to be run right down? How many jobs would be lost in the EU?