

**Question for written answer P-002879/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Paul Brannen (S&D)**

Subject: Assessment of the choice of greening measures in England as regards ecological focus areas

Can the Commission share its observations resulting from an assessment of the choice of greening measures as regards ecological focus areas (EFAs) in England, particularly in relation to the decision by the UK Government not to include hectares under agro-forestry, afforested areas or strips of eligible hectares along forest edges within the scope of EFAs?

Additionally, can the Commission comment on a decision taken by the UK Government with regard to England to limit the scope of the landscape features under EFAs to hedges, without considering, among other options, such eligible features as wooded strips, isolated trees, trees in line and trees in group?

Even though the choice of these measures remains a competence of each Member State, the opinion of the Commission as to the level of contribution of these measures to the achievement of the greening goals would nevertheless be highly valuable, particularly in light of the ongoing common agricultural policy simplification exercise.