

**Question for written answer P-003767/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: End of milk quotas in France

The end of milk quotas on 31 March 2015 will lead to the liberalisation of milk production, which will be regulated to avoid over-production and will ensure producers have a minimum income.

With the abolition of quotas, the 70 000 French dairy farms will move from a stable and protected system to an extremely volatile system that is subject to global competition on unequal terms.

Each producer will have to draw up a contract with a dairy and production volumes will no longer be determined by government departments but by contracts between farmers and dairies. In addition, there will be an increase in imports, leading to a loss of market share for French dairy products, which will result in a downward revision of supply contracts with farmers and increased volatility in the price of milk for industries and cooperatives. Milk, in fact, is now indexed to the world market price for milk powder.

More than half of dairy farmers are likely to disappear within 15 to 20 years' time.

1. Has the Commission planned any measures to prevent the collapse of milk prices after the end of quotas?
2. Has the Commission made an initial assessment of the price cuts currently under way and of the ways to remedy them?
3. Will the Commission help the farms affected by the cessation of quotas?