

**Question for written answer P-004607/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Pablo Zalba Bidegain (PPE)**

Subject: Latxa sheep

Sheep's milk from the 'Latxa' breed, native to the Basque Country and Navarre in Spain, is produced for making cheese with the designations of origin *Idiazabal* and *Roncal*. There have, however, been problems with shortages in this milk production in recent years.

Commercial demand for these types of cheese means it is necessary to continue to support and protect their development, to ensure that no other breeds are used for making this cheese, which would modify the very essence of these designations.

In order to improve supply to the industries concerned, the reform of the CAP offers support to such breeds through its rural development programmes.

In this regard, the new draft regulation on zootechnical conditions governing trade in animals should be improved to include measures to protect indigenous breeds, which it is essential to maintain in order to ensure Europe's biodiversity.

1. Have any measures to support and protect Latxa sheep been included in the 2014-2020 rural development programme for Navarre?
2. Will the Commission improve its draft regulation concerning zootechnical conditions governing trade in animals? Will this draft include measures to protect indigenous breeds?