

**Question for written answer P-012688/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Esther Herranz García (PPE), Francisco José Millán Mon (PPE), Gabriel Mato (PPE), Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra (PPE), Pablo Zalba Bidegain (PPE), Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio (PPE) and Sofia Ribeiro (PPE)**

Subject: Crisis in the milk sector

Prices in the European milk sector have plunged in recent months, pushed down by internal market conditions and the external economic climate, a result of the Chinese economic crisis, the Russian embargo and rising production in third countries.

The sector is highly vulnerable to price volatility and rises in the cost of production. In many regions, the prices farmers receive are barely enough to cover production costs. For several years, Parliament has been calling for measures to alleviate the situation and ensure the future stability of the sector following the elimination of the quota system, such as adjusting the intervention price in line with the current market reality or upgrading the Milk Market Observatory into a more useful crisis prevention mechanism. Spain and other member countries have asked for a new high-level expert group to be set up to discuss future proposals.

Does the Commission intend to update, if only temporarily, the intervention price and launch, by setting up a new expert group, a new debate on other measures to improve the management of the milk market, given its current critical situation?