

Question for written answer P-001336/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Laurențiu Rebega (ENF)

Subject: Increase in EU assistance to save pig farms and abattoirs established with EU funding

Romania is a small-scale producer of pigmeat in the EU, at three million head of pigs each year. Domestic production of pigmeat has nevertheless risen constantly since Romania joined the EU. The majority of Romanian pig farms and abattoirs have been established or modernised with EU funding, and are still ongoing projects. The market price of pigmeat in Romania, which has been kept at an artificially low level by cheap imports from elsewhere in the Community, has led to monthly losses for pig farmers which in December 2015 exceeded EUR 15 million, and this state of affairs has been exacerbated by low consumption levels in January and February 2016.

Pig farmers are not eligible to receive further support, but if the EU does not provide immediate and effective assistance, then the system will collapse. All the projects in receipt of EU funding, to the value of over EUR 200 million, will go to waste.

Is there any possibility of the financial assistance approved by the Commission at the Extraordinary Agriculture Council Meeting of 7 September 2015 being increased by EUR 50 million and of that amount being allocated in its entirety to Romanian pig farmers to cover the losses they have been suffering since August 2014 owing to the embargo imposed by the Russian Federation?