

**Question for written answer P-002033/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Norbert Erdős (PPE)

Subject: Effective intervention needed in order for the European dairy industry to recover rapidly from the crisis

Even though the Commission has adopted a number of measures to improve the situation (for example a EUR 500 million aid package, payment of 80% of direct aid in advance, etc.), regrettably the crisis faced by the dairy industry has not been resolved: indeed, it has become more serious compared with the situation last year. Hungary suffered a bigger fall in prices than any other EU Member State: 20%. The farmgate price for raw milk in Hungary is currently 24.84 euro cents per kg, which is far below cost price.

This cannot continue. An instrument needs to be introduced which will immediately raise producer prices from their current low level. I do not see any alternative to raising intervention prices.

I would therefore ask the Commissioner responsible for agriculture and rural development:

1. Will the Commission raise the intervention price for skimmed-milk powder and cheese to cost price level if milk producers making use of intervention undertake to withdraw from the market free of charge a quantity of milk equal to the quantity to which intervention applies and to surrender this milk/milk powder/butter/cheese etc. for charitable and aid purposes within the EU?
2. Will the Commission give some kind of premium to farmers who curb milk production, and encourage the use of fresh milk in institutional food services?
3. How will the Commission modernise the income stabilisation tool to make it as successful as the schemes which exist in the USA: insurance against price falls and insurance to protect milk price margins?