

**Question for written answer P-001615/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Situation on the milk market

The second half of 2016 and 2017 saw a clear rebound in EU milk and butter prices, allowing our producers to partially offset the losses resulting from the oversupply crisis of 2015-2016. However, in recent months dairy selling prices have been falling again and are already around 15-30% lower on average than a year ago.

The situation is particularly difficult on the skimmed milk powder (SMP) market, where the declines are even greater. The reason given by producers for this is that the Commission has not taken action to manage the more than 350 000 tonnes of intervention SMP accumulated during the crisis. In addition, they were angered by the last auction of SMP, at which about 2 000 tonnes were sold at a price significantly lower than the intervention price, which was described by producers as 'dumping'. As a result, merchants are now offering prices to farmers that are close to those of the last auction.

In view of the worsening situation on the dairy market, as outlined above, and the risk of a new crisis in the dairy sector, we would like to put the following questions to the Commission:

What measures is the Commission taking to manage the stocks of SMP accumulated through intervention without further distorting the market?

How does the Commission intend to prevent a similar situation from arising in the future?

Could the Commission present an analysis of the current situation on the EU dairy market and information on the measures planned in this area?