

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4913/08

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to the Commission

Subject: Situation in the fruit and vegetable market

The fruit and vegetable market reform has failed to produce the desired results. It was clearly a mistake to reject the proposal put forward by Polish Members belonging to the PSL Piast party and the UEN Group, for complementary payments to be made in respect of apples, cherries and currants.

Polish apple producers are currently protesting against the price of 15 groszy (less than five cents) per kilo that processing firms are offering them for their apples.

The Polish Government is unable to deal with this problem, particularly since everything points to a price-fixing agreement having been reached among the owners of the processing firms.

This situation will generate major financial problems for fruit farmers not just in Poland but also in Hungary and other Member States, and may even force them out of business.

We are therefore requesting that complementary payments from the EU budget be made available as a matter of urgency in respect of apples and, from next year, also in respect of cherries, currants and chokeberries.

How and when does the Commission intend to deal with this problem?