

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4643/09
by Hynek Fajmon (ECR)
to the Commission

Subject: Payment of EU farm subsidies in the Czech Republic

Recently, owners of farmland in the Czech Republic have contacted me to complain about the way that EU farm subsidies are disbursed. The problem is that in the Czech Republic these subsidies are paid to the tenants farming the land and not to the owners of the land. And tenant farmers are not obliged, in order to establish a claim to payment of EU farm subsidies, to substantiate their claim with evidence of a contractual relationship with the landowner. As a result, EU farm subsidies in the Czech Republic are very probably paid out to claimants who are not in fact entitled to receive them.

Some farmers are in fact unjustifiably making money in this way at the expense of the taxpayer.

I should therefore like to ask:

1. Does the European Commission consider it fair that farm subsidies are paid out even where no proof is furnished of a legal claim on the part of the farmer?
2. Will the European Commission seek to redress this situation so as to ensure that the rights of landowners are respected and that subsidies are granted only to persons who provide proof of a rental contract?