

**Question for written answer E-3798/2010
to the Commission**
Rule 117
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Subject: Agricultural risk management

One of the major categories of risks in the agricultural sector is uncertainties stemming from the weather. In addition to this traditional threat, new risks are emerging, whether related to plant and animal diseases or caused by the sharp fluctuations in income levels which occur when the market situation changes. Volatility can to some extent be considered an intrinsic market phenomenon, but, especially in the smallest and remotest regions and those which on account of, say, their natural conditions are most vulnerable, sharp fluctuations in income levels pose a serious risk to the continued survival of farming.

To ensure that farming can continue, the EU ought to focus on the management of risks to income and lay down principles enabling income losses to be offset on a common basis. This used to be possible under the common agricultural policy (CAP), but the extreme variations in producer prices have altered the picture. Risk management could be developed within the Member States through cooperation between the public and private sectors as well as at EU level.

Does the Commission realise that the emphasis in agricultural risk management has shifted towards the increased risk of income losses? What plans does it have to improve risk management to help ensure the survival of European agriculture, taking into account in particular the production situation in the regions in the weakest position?