

**Question for written answer E-008223/2012
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Iratxe García Pérez (S&D), Antolín Sánchez Presedo (S&D), Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto (S&D),
Ricardo Cortés Lastra (S&D), Eider Gardiazábal Rubial (S&D), María Muñiz De Urquiza (S&D)
and Antonio Masip Hidalgo (S&D)**

Subject: Emergency measures for the milk sector

The measures adopted in the milk package will not come fully into force until 3 October 2012. Measures that are already in force are not improving the milk market as was hoped: prices paid to producers are still far below the level needed for dairy farms in Spain to show a profit.

This is an untenable situation, coupled to a rise once more this year in the price of raw materials for animal foodstuffs.

The problem must be tackled urgently to ensure prices that bring in at least a very small profit and prevent the massive closure of farms that make up the economic and social fabric of rural areas in Galicia, Castilla and León and all along the Cantabrian coast.

Bearing in mind that the problem is now the collapse in farmgate prices:

1. Why has the Commission not yet activated market mechanisms (refunds, private storage, etc.) or any other measures to correct the downwards trend in prices in Spain and other Member States?
2. In regard to the proper functioning of the single market, what measures could the Commission introduce to control the movement of milk in tankers and in containers and stop it being sold 'at a loss' in Member States other than the country where it was produced?