Question for written answer E-000767/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
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Subject: Supply of imports from the ACP countries and the least-developed countries (LDCs) to the EU sugar market under the EU sugar quota system

The regulation of volumes is a key characteristic of the EU sugar market. In-quota sugar production is currently restricted to 85 % of EU demand. Imported sugar from the ACP countries and the least-developed countries (LDCs) is supposed to cover the remaining 15 %.

The ACP countries and LDCs are apparently not able to supply the EU market with sufficient quantities of sugar. On a number of occasions since late 2010, therefore, the Commission has been forced to take emergency measures in order to stabilise the EU sugar market. An additional 2.4 million tonnes of sugar were made available in the past two years, for example. Shortages are expected again in 2013, requiring fresh intervention by the Commission.

Can the Commission answer the following:

1. What is the Commission's explanation of the shortfall in supplies of sugar from the ACP countries and the LDCs to the EU sugar market?

2. How attractive does the Commission believe the EU market will be in future for exporters of sugar from the LDCs/ACP countries?

3. How does the Commission expect global market prices to develop in future, given the increasing global demand for foods that are high in sugar and the demand for biofuels and bioenergy?

4. Which approaches is the Commission pursuing in order to ensure that the ACP countries/LDCs can supply the European market with sufficient quantities of sugar in future?

5. How does the Commission expect domestic sugar production to change following the abolition of the sugar quota system in 2015, and what changes does it expect in terms of imports from the LDCs/ACP countries into the EU?