

**Question for written answer E-006131/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

María do Céu Patrão Neves (PPE)

Subject: Public consultation on the POSEI agriculture programme (Regulation (EC) No 247/2006)

At a meeting on 7 May 2013 attended by the Agriculture and Rural Development Commissioner, the Heads of Government of the outermost regions, and the MEPs representing those regions, the Commission announced its intention of holding a public consultation on the POSEI agriculture programme (Regulation (EC) No 247/2006 laying down specific measures for agriculture in the outermost regions).

Because the POSEI agriculture programme is intended specifically and solely for the outermost regions and therefore applies to only 3 (Portugal, France, and Spain) out of the 27 (and very soon 28) Member States, the arrangements for the public consultation – assuming that it goes ahead – require particularly careful thought.

Bearing in mind that public consultations as a whole are a matter for the Commission:

- Can the Commission confirm that a public consultation will indeed take place? If so, why is it choosing to go down that road? When will the consultation be held?
- What will be the purpose of the public consultation? What points will be covered? Is it the case that there will be no consultation on the option whereby the POSEI agriculture programme would be absorbed into the CAP and cease to exist as such, something which has already been categorically rejected by the Heads of Government and MEPs from the outermost regions?
- What weight will be given to contributions from Member States with ORs and to general contributions to the future legislative proposal?