Question for written answer E-007327/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Rolandas Paksas (EFD)

Subject: Application of Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 in the new Member States

In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 73/2009, Article 10 on the Special rules for modulation in the new Member States, when applying modulation in the new Member States, it should not be compared with direct payment levels for individual farmer groups, but with the payment levels of Member States, both new (the payment level in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 73/2009, Article 121 thereof) and old (EU15).

Please note that there is a large group of farmers within the EU15 who receive less than EUR 5 000 in payments and who are not subject to modulation. Their payment level is at 100 %. Meanwhile, under Regulation (EC) No 73/2009, Article 121, the level of direct payments in the new Member States in 2012 was at 90 %. This percentage is established at the state level and is the same for both farmers receiving over EUR 5 000 and those receiving less than EUR 5 000 in payments.

Therefore, I would like to know if it is fair to compare the state-wide payment level of 90 % in the new Member States (Regulation (EC) No 73/2009, Article 121) with the payment levels of EU15 farmers (only those who receive in excess of EUR 5 000), considering that Article 10 of the aforementioned Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 clearly states that the direct payment level should at least be equal to the then applicable level in the Member States.

What was the total direct payment level for all EU15 farmer groups in 2012, not individual farmer groups (those who receive in excess of EUR 5 000)?

Given these arguments, does the Commission still believe that modulation was legally and accurately applied to Lithuanian farmers, especially before the end of the transition term of 2013 agreed upon in the Act of Accession, during which the payment level was supposed to increase to 100 %?