

**Question for written answer E-008805/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Franco Bonanini (NI)**

Subject: Basilicata Regional Government Invitation to Tender, Measure 214 - Action 6 -
Introduction of conservation agriculture techniques

The invitation to tender relating to Measure 214 – Action 6 'Introduction of conservation agriculture techniques', issued by the Basilicata Regional Government on 30 April 2013, within the context of the Basilicata RDP 2007/2013 Regional Development Programme, recognises, in Article 4, that conservation agriculture 'includes a phase of considerably reduced production, combined with a significant increase in pesticides and fertilisers which must be used with caution and applied in appropriate doses and at suitable periods...'.

Considering that the amount of the payments stipulated by the regional invitation to tender for this measure heavily penalises organic farming, for which lower payments are stipulated, can the Commission clarify whether the provisions of this invitation to tender are compatible with the general principles of the Kyoto Protocol, the EU's general environmental strategy and the general objectives of the Rural Development Programme, or whether it instead seeks to support a method of agriculture which makes consistent and structured use of synthetic herbicides and pesticides instead of encouraging the progressive replacement of such chemicals together with the reduction of greenhouse gases?