

**Question for written answer E-013204/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Patricia van der Kammen (NI)

Subject: EUR 3 billion of undue allowances given as farm subsidies in 2012

The Annual Report from the Court of Auditors on the implementation of the 2012 budget of the European Union¹ includes in Chapters 3 and 4 the outcomes of the investigations carried out by the Court of Auditors into (payment) transactions (Agriculture).

In the investigations carried out by the Court of Auditors, 41 % of the samples were affected by errors in the case of market and direct support, and 63 % of the samples had errors in the case of rural development, environment, fisheries and health. The annual report also indicates that the total error rate has risen in the last few years. It also shows that the Commission is not very critical regarding its own role, trivialises the outcomes in terms of error percentages, casts doubt on the measuring methods used by the Court of Auditors, and hardly or does not follow up at all many recommendations from previous years.

Based on the total commitments of EUR 44 685 billion for market and direct support and of EUR 16 972 billion for rural development, environment, fisheries and health, an estimated amount of about EUR 3 billion is arrived at in undue farm subsidies paid, which is at least 5 %.

1. Is the Commission au fait with the annual report from the Court of Auditors for 2012¹?
2. Does the Commission also finally come to the conclusion that agricultural policy needs to be handed back to Member States, including the corresponding funds, as it definitely seems now that the error percentages in the allocation of farm subsidies are only going to rise? If not, why not?

¹ http://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/AR12/AR12_EN.pdf