

**Question for written answer E-014357/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Brice Hortefeux (PPE) and Jean-Pierre Audy (PPE)

Subject: Impact on pork sector from stricter 'mountain product' criteria.

In 2012, the European Union adopted a Regulation on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs (Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012), which introduces the term 'mountain product'.

Article 31(3) of that Regulation authorises the European Commission to adopt a delegated act laying down the conditions under which raw materials or feedstuffs are permitted to come from outside mountain areas.

During a trip to France on 25 November 2013, Commissioner Ciolos announced that he wanted a minimum of 30 % of pig food to come from mountain areas.

Can the Commission tell us the criteria on the basis of which it set the threshold at 30 %?

Does that threshold take account of the situation on the ground, namely that it is difficult to feed pigs using cereals cultivated at high altitude, and the fact that that practice is limited for geographical and climate-related reasons?

Did the Commission consult mountain pork producers before setting that criterion?

Has the Commission evaluated the economic and social impact of that decision?