

**Question for written answer E-000628/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Rareş-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)

Subject: The Hungarian Farmland Act

A new Hungarian law banning the sale of farmland to foreigners, which entered into force on 15 December 2013, will, to all intents and purposes, become effective in May 2014.

Under the new provisions, a special state-registered document will be required for the purchase of farmland throughout Hungary. The Act also specifies the natural and legal persons entitled to own farmland and forestland in Hungary: Only farmers (natural or legal persons registered in Hungary), the State, local councils, churches and – under certain conditions – banks, may own more than one hectare of farmland and must put it to use within a maximum of three years.

Natural persons in Hungary other farmers or nationals of other EU Member States may own up to one hectare of land in Hungary, including land no longer used for farming. The only exception admitted under this Act is where a foreign national is closely related to the person transferring ownership of the land.

Can the Commission to clarify whether these provisions are in line with the relevant EU law?