

**Question for written answer E-002029/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
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Subject: Cultivation of industrial hemp and its by-products

The European hemp industry depends in large part on the political and economic framework of the European Union.

Aspects of greening can make a significant contribution to the cultivation of hemp as an environmentally friendly crop. Additionally, more and more requirements must now be met to obtain certificates for all types of biomass. All of this should help to expand hemp production in the near future, given the increased demand for it in the construction, automotive and food industries.

As regards legality, hemp may be cultivated in the EU, provided that the types of crops meet particular EU rules regarding THC levels, i.e. these levels may not exceed 0.2 %. Relevant provisions are laid down in Recitals 28 and 31, Article 32(6), Article 35(3) and Article 52(2) of Regulation No 1307/2013 establishing rules for direct payments to farmers, and in Article 189(1) (b) Regulation No 1308/2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products.

The current legal framework in Croatia allows farmers to produce industrial hemp, but the only by-product that they are allowed to produce is hempseed oil. Producers are forced to securely destroy the remainder of this highly valuable plant.

1. Could the Commission offer specific guidelines or recommendations that take account of best practices in the Member States, so that Croatia can direct its legislation towards achieving additional value through using industrial hemp by-products?
2. What would the Commission recommend in terms of European greening policy and the greening of industry? For instance, in spite of the increased demand and interest for hemp industry by-products such as hemp fibres throughout the EU, this trend has not yet had any positive effect.