

**Question for written answer E-002578/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg (S&D)

Subject: EU direct subsidies

An article on the portal Onet.pl entitled 'War on agro-pirates'¹ has reported that when Polish farmers unlawfully use state land, they additionally receive EU direct subsidies for its use. These persons are most often so-called non-contractual users, i.e. former tenants whose lease agreements have lapsed but who have not decided to extend the term or to purchase the land under a pre-emption right. In accordance with the Act on Direct Subsidies, these persons are merely required to submit an appropriate application to the Agriculture Restructuring and Modernisation Agency (Agencja Restrukturyzacji i Modernizacji Rolnictwo), in which they declare use of real estate without the need to submit any documentation regarding lease or ownership of the land.

What is the Commission's view of this issue?

¹ Here is a link to the article: <http://m.onet.pl/biznes/branze/rolnictwo-i-rybactwo.hp8zx>