

**Question for written answer E-002884/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Guido Milana (S&D)**

Subject: Impact of new organic farming requirements

Has the European Commission considered the fact that imposing stricter requirements would lead to a reduction in organic production in Europe and that, in order to meet the large demand from the European market, we will be forced to import even greater volumes from non-member countries?

For example, it appears that in the review of the current organic regulations, the Commission is intending to introduce a requirement under which farmers are obliged to make their entire farm subject to the organic control system within a maximum of three years. This would discourage farmers from changing over to organic production. A farmer engaged in diversified production on a medium-sized farm may wish to convert the farm to organic production in stages. Does the Commission have any data at its disposal on the numbers of farms which currently employ mixed farming methods (conventional and organic)? Has it considered that many of these farms could abandon organic farming, leading to a further reduction in organic production in Europe?