

**Question for written answer E-003886/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Implementing the 'active farmer' category in the Czech Republic

In the framework of the common agricultural policy for the 2014-2020 period, the EU has brought in an 'active farmer' category to make sure that the direct payments for agriculture and rural development have the greatest possible impact. In the Czech Republic there have been signs that the implementation of the category has created an administrative burden and is making life difficult for small farmers.

The problem lies in Government Order No 50/2015 Coll., which states that the recipient of a direct payment must be an agricultural entrepreneur within the meaning of Statute No 252/1997 Coll. on agriculture. Under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, however, the recipient simply needs to be carrying out farming activity on his own farm.

1. Under Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, does a person have to be an agricultural entrepreneur to receive direct payments?
2. If not, is the way in which the concept of 'active farmer' has been transposed into Czech law at odds with Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013?
3. Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 states that applicants receiving direct payments of less than EUR 5000 do not have to show evidence that they fall under the category of active farmer. In the Czech Republic, however, only agricultural entrepreneurs can receive direct payments of any amount. Is the Czech law not undermining the EU's attempt to make it easier for small farmers to receive direct payments?