

**Question for written answer E-009314/2016/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Situation in the EU sheep meat sector

The EU sheep meat sector provides work for some 900 000 European producers. Sheep farming is also highly beneficial for the environment and has a significant impact in combating rural exodus. Sheep numbers have fallen since the 1980s by more than 20 %. During the economic crisis consumption of sheep meat fell. When it picked up again, however, there was no matching rise in production of sheep meat in the EU – what did increase was consumption of imported lamb (mainly from New Zealand). The EU Sheep Meat and Goat Meat Forum held in 2015 on the Commission's initiative recommended, among other things, that a specific environmental payment be introduced for these two sectors.

1. Will the Commission step up promotion of sheep meat produced in the EU in the new campaigns arising from implementation of the new Regulation on promotion measures?
2. Looking forward to the next CAP reform, will the Commission examine the possibility of introducing an environmental payment for these sectors, as well as all the other recommendations made by the EU Sheep Meat and Goat Meat Forum?