

**Question for written answer E-001729/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Igor Šoltes (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Industrial hemp

In the EU there is no form of precise regulation applicable to industrial hemp used for food, although its use for that purpose is regulated indirectly by the common rules for direct support schemes for farmers under the common agricultural policy. Under the rules, areas are not entitled to direct support unless they are used to grow hemp varieties with a THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) content not exceeding 0.2%. The rules otherwise do not prohibit the cultivation of hemp with a higher THC content, but, given that those varieties are not eligible for subsidies, many experts and industrial hemp growers consider that the potential of hemp cannot really be exploited to the full, thus making it impossible to create new jobs and boost economic growth. Even if the limit were raised only slightly, this would provide an incentive to widen the range to include varieties containing more THC which are of higher quality and more resistant to pests and natural phenomena. Slovenian native varieties, which, for the reasons described above, have almost completely disappeared, likewise exceed the THC content limit.

- Is the Commission aware of the studies and opinions in the trade which are warning that the present EU arrangements are restricting the cultivation and processing of industrial hemp?
- Will it enable subsidies also to be granted for the growing of hemp with a higher THC content, and when does it intend to propose the necessary change?