

**Question for written answer E-007877/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Bendt Bendtsen (PPE)**

Subject: Landed property in Latvia

Upon joining in 2004, the new Member States were given a transitional period of 10 years to bring their national legislation (e.g. in respect of landed property) into line with EU law.

However, since 2014 several countries have introduced new legislation regulating the purchase and sale of agricultural land.

In Latvia, it was agreed that buyers must have paid tax for three years and/or have received hectare subsidy for three years. Furthermore, in 2014 Latvia introduced the rule that buyers of agricultural land must speak Latvian at level B2, i.e. fluent Latvian. These requirements are all in violation of the free movement of capital and are discriminatory.

From the Commission's website it appears that the Commission initiated an infringement procedure against Latvia in 2015 concerning their landed property legislation. Has the Commission come closer to a clarification?

Several non-Latvian EU citizens are in a tight spot in Latvia and the longer the matter drags out, the worse their prospects become. In this connection, what would the Commission consider to be a reasonable processing time?