

**Question for written answer E-000611/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Jean-Paul Denanot (S&D)**

Subject: Question mark over the eligibility of legume-grass and legume-herbaceous mixtures

The ineligibility of legume-grass mixtures and legume-herbaceous mixtures for support is incomprehensible at a time when all the EU institutions are working on a strategy to make the EU less dependent on protein imports.

Many farmers in Europe have already started to change to resilient and long-lasting systems which put grass to good use and are economically positive because they reduce animal feed costs and ecologically positive because they reduce reliance on imports.

Considering grass on its own is not on the list of crops eligible for optional support, why is the Commission penalising legume-grass and legume-herbaceous mixtures – even with small grass or herbaceous amounts – when they are a key source of protein and highly valuable carbon sinks?

What will the Commission do to compensate for lowering the incentive for farmers to improve crop diversity and support nitrogen-fixing plants?