

**Question for written answer E-004376/2018**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**David McAllister (PPE)**

Subject: Future of the Common Agricultural Policy after 2020

In the German region of Lower Saxony every tenth job is linked either directly or indirectly to the agri-food industry. The current two-pillar structure of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has proved its effectiveness in strengthening this key sector of the economy. In that connection, adequate funding for the first pillar is vital in order to ensure that farms in Europe, and thus also in Lower Saxony, remain competitive and to safeguard the production of foodstuffs of the highest quality on land which is farmed sustainably and in an environmentally friendly manner and livestock farming which is geared to animal welfare. At the same time, the second pillar, which covers a broad range of measures including the development of villages, road construction, the promotion of organic farming and investment in agriculture, does much to keep rural areas attractive as a place to live and develop them further against the backdrop of demographic change.

In the context of the revision of the CAP, how will the ensure that:

1. the agricultural single market continues to function and the CAP retains its market-economy approach?
2. CAP funding under the second pillar can continue to be tailored to the specific needs of German regions?
3. procedures for applying for CAP funding are simplified, in order to cut red tape significantly for both applicants and the authorities?