

**Question for written answer E-004448/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Maria Spyraiki (PPE)

Subject: Severe blow to olive oil production in Crete

This year's olive oil production in Crete has been very badly affected by olive anthracnose, which is having an unprecedented impact on the quantity and quality of Cretan olive oil. This serious problem has been further aggravated by the recent hailstorm 'Victoria' that destroyed olives in several areas. As a result, producers have been left without an income and unable to grow their crops next year, as there is no income to pay off the debts incurred by the previous harvest.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. In this case, will Commission Regulation (EU) 2019/316 of 21 February 2019 amending Regulation (EU) No 1408/2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid in the agriculture sector apply?
2. The payment of compensation will require an assessment of the extent of the losses incurred by producers, the rapid gathering of evidence and an official determination of the causes of the destruction. How will this be achieved?