Question for written answer E-001599/2021 to the Commission Rule 138

José Gusmão (The Left), Marisa Matias (The Left)

Subject: CAP beneficiaries and abusive labour practices

If we take account of annual work units when analysing the distribution of CAP subsidies, it can be seen that funding provided per annual work unit is around ten times greater in the Alentejo region than in the western region or in Pinhal Interior for example, which has a significantly negative impact on family farming. It is common knowledge that many CAP beneficiaries are engaged in abusive labour practices, such as providing precarious working conditions, housing immigrant workers in containers in undignified conditions and with low pay, which is both socially and environmentally highly unsustainable. Since the Portuguese Government has helped legitimise the unlawful treatment of these workers by deeming precarious structures unfit for habitation to constitute agricultural infrastructure, there is no guarantee that large farms will not continue to hire seasonal migrants in such abusive conditions. Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski recently stated that he is in favour of excluding from subsidies farms that do not respect labour rights.

In view of the promotion of territorial and social equality and attempts to make family farming and farming as a profession more attractive, is the Commission prepared to make observance of the most basic of human rights mandatory and to suspend payments to those who fail to comply with employment law?