

**Question for written answer E-005303/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: The price of Corinthian currants

Corinthian currant producers are finding themselves beset by problems, with exports being undermined by plummeting international market prices, high production costs and the rocketing price of goods and services.

In a bid to steal a march on other processors/traders, the Panaiyialeios Union of Cooperatives (PUC) was last year (2020) paying producers over the odds compared to actual market prices. It was then unable to sell the currants and found itself with a 'stock' of 7 000 tonnes on its hands. It is becoming clear that producers belonging to the PUC may well be required to shoulder its losses pursuant to the laws governing cooperative societies that took shape under the New Democracy government and its predecessors. Matters are now coming to a head with the addition of the crop for this year (2021), which growers are being pressurised by associations and wholesalers to sell far below the cost of production.

In view of this:

What is the Commission's response to the justified claims being made by producers that go against the injurious CAP provisions and are as follows: (a) that the 'stocks' be made available to state-run organisations such as the armed services, schools, hospitals, etc. at reasonable prices, so as to prevent any burden on growers belonging to the PUC, and (b) that the crop for this year (2021) be bought up at a price that covers the cost of production and provides growers with an income sufficient to keep them afloat?