

**Question for written answer E-002237/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

João Pimenta Lopes (The Left)

Subject: Support for livestock producers in Santa Cruz highlands

During a recent visit to the Autonomous Region of Madeira, I heard from livestock producers in the Santa Cruz highlands about their problems linked to the rise in production costs – first and foremost for feed, now that there are fewer suitable pasture areas – and to the matter of financial support, which is either non-existent or slow to reach producers.

The livestock breeders association employs some shepherds that take care of the sheep of some 100 producers.

The producers referred to an EU fund made available on a 'per head of livestock' basis, with a different amount for breeding ewes, which would be provided straight to the association, but they were not certain whether it existed.

In the light of the above:

1. What financial support is currently available for the livestock producers in the Autonomous Region of Madeira – what type and how much – and to which bodies is it provided?
2. What other support can these livestock producers access for production itself and for production costs, including buying feed?
3. What support can be made available in the Autonomous Region of Madeira for singling out areas for pasture and breeding livestock?

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