

**Question for written answer E-000186/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Bronis Ropè (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Situation in the dairy sector

Europe is currently facing mass protests by farmers. The situation in the dairy sector is probably among the worst – despite the existence of Article 210a of Regulation 1308/2013¹ – so the current regulation is obviously inadequate. It is also clear that we cannot save the dairy sector simply by means of subsidies. The distribution of margins in milk production is highly unequal, with some market players who are skimming off too large a share. Therefore redistribution of this value must be addressed immediately, as dairy farmers are leaving the sector never to return.

In view of the protests, does the Commission recognise the need for a serious response based on the implementation of far-reaching market reforms to ensure that market prices cover producers' costs – for example, by setting prices to exceed costs, along the same lines as in Spain – and automation of the voluntary volume reduction instrument so that it is triggered automatically whenever a crisis appears on the horizon?

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¹ Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products (CMO Regulation), OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 671.