

**Question for written answer P-007253/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Joint agreements/decisions on agricultural products (Article 222 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013)

Since the introduction of the Russian ban on imports of EU agricultural products, prices have fallen sharply as a result of lower demand. During periods of severe imbalance in markets, Article 222 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 allows the Commission to adopt implementing acts to the effect that Article 101(1) TFEU does not apply to agreements/decisions of recognised producer organisations, their associations and recognised interbranch organisations. The aim of Article 222 is to stabilise the EU agricultural market, and it provides an opportunity for the common withdrawal of products from the market. In view of the current crisis, joint agreements/decisions in the sector seem justified as they reduce overcapacity, enhance the functioning of the internal market and stabilise the sector.

1. Is the Commission prepared to adopt an implementing act resulting in the temporary derogation of Article 101(1) TFEU in order to authorise joint agreements/decisions, and can the Commission indicate when it will decide upon this measure?
2. Could the possibility of a derogation under Article 222 also be applied to non-member producers, non-recognised producer organisations, etc.?
3. Can the Commission guarantee that any possible temporary derogation of Article 101(1) TFEU will indeed be purely temporary and applicable only in respect of the Russian ban, and can it ensure that fraud will be prevented?