

**Question for written answer P-000647/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Francis Zammit Dimech (PPE)**

Subject: Delays in providing children with fruit, vegetables and milk

The latest EU school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme, which entered into force on 1 August 2017, is designed to help children follow a healthy diet and provide primary school and kindergarten pupils with fresh vegetables, fruit and milk.

In Malta, however, the press has reported that the scheme is still not operational, despite four months already having passed since the beginning of the school year. It has been remarked that such delays are due to administrative issues – including EU procurement conditions – which are preventing children from fully enjoying the benefits of the scheme and being inculcated with healthy eating habits from a young age.

1. Is the Commission aware of the situation in Malta, and indeed of other Member States having faced such delays?
2. Does it agree that the present conditions of the scheme, including those relating to procurement, can lead to delays in implementation?
3. Is it planning to simplify the existing system so that the Member States will not have to encounter such challenges in future?