

**Question for written answer E-015057/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Giovanni La Via (PPE)

Subject: Clarification concerning the administrative procedure to discontinue proceedings in relation to the company Duca di Salaparuta

In accordance with Regulations (EC) No 1234/2007 and (EC) No 555/2008, on 11 December 2013 the Region of Sicily published a call for applications for funding, under the 2013-2014 'Investment' measure (wine CMO 2013/2014), in which it invited companies to submit applications for funding. In this regard, on 13 February 2014 the company Duca di Salaparuta S.p.A. submitted an application for funding (No 45620004270), was deemed to be eligible for such funding and was included as No 24 on the final list on 5 June 2014. On 8 September 2014, the Regional Department for Agriculture, Rural Development and Mediterranean Fisheries (Regional Department of Agriculture No 16) notified Duca di Salaparuta that it was to discontinue its administrative proceedings relating to the funding application, since the company was linked to the company ILLVA di Saronno, and was therefore a large company and not an SME.

Does the Commission consider this rejection of the application for funding by Duca di Salaparuta S.p.A. to be fair, given that the company has been in Sicily for more than a century, that it pursues its business independently and that the company ILLVA di Saronno does not have any direct business in wine production or the wine trade, but is merely a company of a financial nature?