

**Question for written answer E-015495/2015  
to the Commission  
Rule 130  
Matt Carthy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Island products

On 16 December 2013 the Commission adopted a report on the case for an optional quality term 'product of island farming'. This report looks into the challenges that agriculture on islands faces and the impact of those challenges (peripherality, maritime climate, land type) on the qualities and characteristics of island products.

It details the difficulties involved in finding a common European definition of 'island', and notes how in the case of the cohesion funds Malta and Cyprus are classified as 'islands', while for other purposes islands which are the site of an EU capital are not classified as such.

Given the benefits that such a quality standard could bring to island agriculture, can the Commission state:

1. whether it intends to press ahead with proposing an island quality standard for agricultural products, and on the basis of what timeline;
2. whether it will be conducting a study to specifically identify what can be classified as an 'island' for the purposes of agricultural legislation?