

**Question for written answer E-015550/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Manolis Kefalogiannis (PPE)

Subject: Unusually high mortality rate among newborn lambs and kids in Crete

Livestock production is a major source of income for many farmers in the mountainous areas of Crete. In recent weeks, the particularly high mortality rate among newborn lambs and kids has been a source of serious concern: it has been almost 90% on some farms, jeopardising their viability.

The Region of Crete, in cooperation with the competent authorities, has undertaken an investigation into the causes of the high mortality rate, but has failed to reach any firm conclusions. There are suspicions that it may have something to do with diet or even serious environmental disturbances that cannot be identified using the instruments currently available.

Given that for hundreds of residents of the mountain villages of Crete, the production of meat and milk from the flocks of sheep and goats is their sole source of income, can the Commission say:

1. How will it encourage the Greek authorities to investigate the causes of high mortality among lambs and kids in Crete?
2. Which Community funds may be used to compensate stockbreeders who have suffered such heavy losses to their flocks?