

**Question for written answer E-014663/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Daniel Buda (PPE)

Subject: Sheep breeders in Romania are failing to register their animals in the flock-book

Only 200 000 sheep are currently entered in the Romanian flock-book, even though the Commission is paying support for 3.5 million sheep and goats. Breeders complain that, from next year onwards, they will no longer be able to claim subsidies unless their animals are entered in the flock-book. The Romanian sheep and goat breeders' representative has said that animals may be entered in the book only following improvements in livestock breeds, and this would involve purchasing new certificates of origin. He added that Romanian farmers are currently unable to buy rams and that national transitional aid is falling year on year. In 2013, for example, the support paid stood at RON 38 per head, falling to RON 28 per head in 2014 and RON 24 per head in 2015, while the cost of keeping livestock is rising constantly.

In the Commission's view, what steps should be taken to bring about an increase in the number of sheep registered in the Romanian flock-book and ensure that Romanian farmers do not lose their subsidies?

Does the Commission have any instruments at its disposal to support sheep breeding with a view to registration in flock-books, thus ensuring that the corresponding subsidies are not lost?