

**Question for written answer E-015734/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Louis Michel (ALDE) and Maurice Ponga (PPE)

Subject: Banana production in ACP countries

Bananas are a vital subsistence food for millions of people and an important source of export revenue for many developing countries. The banana sector is a major employer of labour and contributes greatly to improvements in local people's living conditions, cutting poverty and maintaining social stability.

Banana farming plays a decisive role in the economic and social development of the ACP countries concerned. At this early stage in discussions on the future of the Cotonou Agreement therefore, and in order that migration flows may remain within bounds, it would be in the European Union's interest to place this issue at the top of its political agenda once again.

Specifically, what provisions could the Commission implement to keep tariff protection at a high enough level to ensure the continuity of banana production? What budgetary support could it consider to assist the sector's development from both an economic point of view and a social and environmental one?