

**Question for written answer E-015766/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Maria Heubuch (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Data on land purchases, land prices and rents

Reliable data are indispensable in order to analyse the complex and dynamic process of land concentration in the EU and take political action where necessary. Such data are currently not sufficiently available. In its opinion on 'Land Grabbing', the Economic and Social Committee complained about the lack of reliable data on the scale of the phenomenon. This same lack of data was used by the Commission as an argument with which to criticise the study of land grabbing commissioned by the Agriculture Committee of the European Parliament: 'The study fails to present a comprehensive empirical analysis and database on large-scale land purchases and instead refers mainly to secondary sources, some of them anecdotal. Hence it is clear that it cannot deliver a comprehensive and representative assessment of the situation with respect to large-scale land purchases in the EU'.

What measures will the Commission take to remedy this situation and to collect and publish reliable data? When might the first reliable data be made publicly available?

Is it true that Eurostat is in possession of information from Member States on land prices and rents for the years 2011-14 but does not publish them (cf. Eurostat document DGAS/3, 'Statistics on Agricultural Land Prices and Rents', 20 May 2015)? When will such data, assuming it exists, be made available?