

# PARLAMENTO EUROPEO



DIPUTADO AL PARLAMENTO EUROPEO

12th September 2014

Dear Mr. Juncker, President of the European Commission,

The European Commission suspended the emergency market measures for perishable fruit and vegetable markets announced on August 18 in the wake of the Russian measures banning imports of certain EU agricultural products. The Commission states the scheme has to be closed due to a disproportionate surge in claims and it will come forward with a more targeted scheme in the near future.

Since Russia declared their veto on EU agricultural products I have been meeting with Farmers Association and Unions on a regular basis and I would like to transmit their deep concern on the current situation to you. Farmers are not responsible for the crisis with Russia. They are actually paying for a Foreign Affairs decision taken by the UE, a decision they were not asked to speak up on.

The decision is actually a heavy blow for Spanish fruit and vegetable producers as it may foster speculation and major collapse in prices. Farmers and I, also believe suspending the scheme completely is not fair and the Commission should track those States committing negligence and decree the suspension of the program only on a case-by-case basis, not indiscriminately.

This situation will kill the Spanish agriculture if we do not do anything about it. Therefore I claim the Commission to reconsider their strategy; make improvements in the new legislation enlarging the budget and the list of products getting emergency financial aids, such as pomegranate, citrus and persimmon, and raise the compensation coverage to 100% for all farmers concerned without discrimination. I would also insist on the urgency of the new legislation to be approved as soon as possible.

Looking forward to hearing from you, I remain

Jordi Sebastia  
MEP Greens/EFA