

**Question for written answer E-000668/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Sharp decline in EU milk prices and possible activation of a voluntary milk production reduction scheme

Since 2025, farm-gate milk prices across Europe have plummeted. In some regions, prices have declined by 10 to 15 cent per litre (c/L) within a few months. While average prices in parts of the EU were still around 48 to 50c/L in autumn 2025, current announced payments in several Member States are already in the 30c/L range, with further reductions expected.

For dairy producers, current price levels are below production costs, putting the economic viability of dairy farms at serious risk.

This development recalls previous market phases characterised by substantial price pressure and income instability in the dairy sector. In 2016, the EU responded to a crisis by introducing the EU Milk Production Reduction Scheme¹. Following its implementation, market conditions improved and prices recovered significantly within months.

I would like to ask:

1. How does the Commission assess the current situation on the EU milk market, particularly regarding price trends, costs, production volumes and the income situation of dairy farmers?
2. Is the Commission considering activating a voluntary milk production reduction scheme under the Common Market Organisation, as was applied in 2016?
3. Which specific indicators, market signals or thresholds would need to be reached for the Commission to consider such activation?

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¹ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/1612 of 8 September 2016 providing aid for milk production reduction (OJ L 242, 9.9.2016, p. 4, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2016/1612/oj).