

**Question for written answer E-003477/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Falling milk prices and the suitability of EU intervention tools

In recent months, milk producers in the Azores have been facing further reductions in the price they are paid, while production costs remain high. The falls announced for September exacerbate already small margins, hinder future investments and have led to signs of abandonment or conversion of holdings.

At the same time, the current reference thresholds used in public intervention for butter and skimmed milk powder maintain levels set more than 15 years ago, despite the profound change in production costs and market conditions.

In light of the above:

1. Will the Commission ask the milk market observatory and AFCCO for an analysis of price transmission, costs and distribution of margins in the Azores, including persistent regional differences, in relation to the functioning of the internal market?
2. What immediate steps can the EU take to boost the income, liquidity and bargaining position of Azorean producers?
3. Does the Commission consider the existing reference thresholds for public intervention in the dairy sector to be suitable, and will it push for them to be updated based on current costs and market conditions?

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