

**Question for written answer E-002351/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: EUR 149 000 paid to professor of medieval history for writing a farming report

According to the newspaper *Politico*, the Commission has supposedly earmarked EUR 149 000 in remuneration for a six-month assignment given to a German professor whose expertise is in medieval history. He was tasked with writing a report on agriculture. However, other similar reports on the state of Community policies, such as Mario Draghi's competitiveness report and former Finnish Prime Minister Sauli Niinistö's defence report, were drawn up at no cost to the Commission.

What is more, taking into account that farming is extremely important to the economic sustainability of the EU internal market and that, through their efforts to simplify the CAP, in the form of a regulation that Parliament adopted in April 2024, the EU institutions have conceded that the sector faces difficulties:

1. Why was that assignment entrusted to an external expert, with such high pay, and not to an internal staff member?
2. Given that he is a specialist not in agriculture but in medieval history, what criteria were used to select the professor and what specific agriculture expertise does he have?
3. Why did the Commission not choose to give that task to professionals who are actually farming specialists?

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