

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

15 May 2003

B5-0269/2003

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure

by Jorge Salvador Hernández Mollar

on compensation for losses in the Huelva strawberry industry

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Motion for a European Parliament resolution on compensation for losses in the Huelva strawberry industry

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas the Huelva Strawberry Board (Spain) has estimated it will lose EUR 42 million this season due to rain and a shortage of manpower,
- B. whereas Huelva strawberries have been faced with competition from cheaper Moroccan strawberries,
- C. whereas this year 13 million kilos have been lost, meaning production will not reach the 2002 figure of 280 000 tonnes,
- D. whereas producers have abandoned a total of 546 hectares, equivalent to 7% of total planted surface,
 - 1. Calls for the European Union to adopt a series of measures to restructure the Huelva strawberry industry, one of the most important in the whole European Union;
 - 2. Requests that this plan should take into account external factors, such as climactic conditions, as well as other contributory factors, especially those relating to the workforce, whose characteristics change from season to season and according to the different nationalities of which it is composed;
 - 3. Recommends that the EU create a new consensus plan to help the Huelva strawberry industry survive its current crisis.