

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2277/00

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to the Commission

Subject: Measures to protect European hazelnut production

World consumption of hazelnuts is around 600 000 tonnes, most of which comes from Turkey (550 000 tonnes), while 90% of the rest is produced by Italy and 10% by Spain and France.

In view of the current privatisation of the sector in Turkey which, in addition to nullifying the agreement with the EU stipulating the stockpiling of a third of its output, will enable Turkish hazelnut production to invade the world market, and also in view of the forthcoming expiration of the Common Organisation of the Market in nuts:

1. Could the Commission list the measures to be taken to protect European hazelnut production, particularly the Italian product grown mainly around Viterbo, and to guarantee producers' income?
2. Could the Commission announce the renewal of the Community rules providing for support for Italian, Spanish and French producers?
3. Could the Commission announce the granting of urgent aid to the sector, recognising the special features of nut production?
4. Could the Commission announce a requirement for the confectionery industry to state on their products the origin of the hazelnuts used to make them?