

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3476/00
by Mario Mastella (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Reform of the fruit and vegetable sector

In July of this year the Commission submitted a proposal to reform the fruit and vegetable sector that will entail palpable disadvantages for the sector and Italian products in particular.

The reform proposal is calling for a substantial reduction in the financial resources earmarked for fruit and vegetable producers and their organisations and especially for operating plans, industrial tomatoes, nuts, and citrus fruits.

The fruit and vegetable sector accounts for 23% of the value of Italian farm produce. The expectations are that the reform should be adopted by the end of the year, a fact which suggests that the need to restore a financial balance in favour of Mediterranean products has not been taken into consideration.

Will the Commission take steps to avert such a sharp cut in funding for the fruit and vegetable sector?