

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4057/00

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to the Commission

Subject: Agriculture in Capaccio-Paestum

Capaccio-Paestum is an area in the gulf of Salerno subject to archaeological restrictions because of its great archaeological riches (Doric temples, a necropolis etc.). The river Sele and other waterways make it a particularly fertile area.

Legislation rightly ensures that this immeasurably valuable heritage is protected, but does not take into consideration the age-old activities of farmers in the area (rearing buffalo, growing vegetables, etc.).

Will the Commission therefore take action to ensure that the local authorities, while continuing to ensure that the archaeological and landscape heritage is protected, adopt all measures necessary to allow the farmers concerned to receive special authorisation to improve their holdings and to gain access to concessions relating to social security contributions, tax and financing, as well as financial support from the European Union?

In short, does the Commission intend to ensure that all those concerned benefit from equal opportunities in comparison with other farmers who do not live in areas subject to constraints?