

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2801/01  
by Gian Gobbo (NI)  
to the Commission

Subject: Protection of typical foods and strategy to safeguard European agriculture

Given that:

- the spread of mad cow disease (BSE) has profoundly disturbed public opinion and raised important questions about the exclusive use of industrial processes in agricultural production;
- the use of genetically modified organisms (GMO) in agri-food production, besides representing possible risk for consumer health, would favour a few big non-European multinationals at the expense of the European small and medium-sized companies operating in the sector,

the Commission is asked:

- What strategies does it intend to adopt in order to safeguard European agriculture?
- Does it not accept that comprehensive action should be taken to protect and promote the traditional agri-food production of the various regions of Europe, a guarantee of authenticity as well as an expression of the cultural wealth of those regions?