

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3302/02
by Francesco Fiori (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Bioterrorism Act

The complex procedure laid down in the Bioterrorism Act means that a given food product can be traced from the moment it is packaged until it is distributed on the US food market, the aim being to limit the possible impact on public health of terrorist acts carried via the food chain. The US took these steps for obvious reasons.

There is nevertheless a certain amount of concern about the effects these provisions may have on international trade and possible barriers which may jeopardise trade relations with the US, one of the most important markets for Italian quality food products (pasta, olive oil and cheeses).

The law directly affects the interests of the Italian agri-foodstuffs industry and may have negative repercussions, in particular for SMEs.

How does the Commission intend to prevent the creation of artificial barriers to trade and excessive complications for export firms?