

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0394/03
by Salvador Jové Peres (GUE/NGL)
to the Council

Subject: Possible violation of Council regulations on processed tomatoes

On 15 January 2002, the Fruit and Vegetable Management Committee approved the tomato figures reported by Member States, thus granting full subsidies to all the Member States since the Community threshold had not been exceeded. However, the Commission did not make this agreement official by issuing the appropriate regulation.

In the measures it put before the Fruit and Vegetable Management Committee meeting of 28 January 2002, the Commission admitted various requests for subsidy from Italy.

Does the Council believe that these requests for subsidy were subject to the controls demanded by Regulations (EC) No 2201/96¹ and (EC) No 449/2001²?

Does the Council believe that Article 23(2) of Regulation (EC) No 449/2001 (laying down 10 December as the deadline by which the Member States have to inform the Commission of the total quantity for which aid is being requested) was not infringed?

Does the Council know the date on which the 28 January 2002 meeting of the Fruit and Vegetable Management Committee was convened, and what the purpose of this meeting was?

If there has been a violation of the regulations cited, what action does the Council intend to take?

¹ OJ L 297, 21.11.1996, p. 29.

² OJ L 64, 6.3.2001, p. 16.