

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0897/03  
by Hedwig Keppelhoff-Wiechert (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Proposal for a Council regulation on the common organisation of the market in ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin (COM(2001) 101 final - C5-0095/01); in particular, measures for the agricultural alcohol market/Article 10

In Germany, it is usually family farms which run corn distilleries producing agricultural alcohol. The Commission now intends to destroy these traditional agricultural production methods with the above proposal for a regulation. This agricultural activity will suddenly and without good reason be transformed into an industry.

A distinction must be made between the terms 'ethyl alcohol' and 'spirits'. Distillates should only be classed as 'spirits' when they are ready for use. Coarse and fine corn distillates are agricultural and not commercial products.

Why does the above proposal for a regulation not distinguish between coarse and fine corn distillates on the one hand and the finished product corn schnapps on the other?