

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2958/03
by Armando Cossutta (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Price rises in the eurozone countries

On 16 September 2003, a consumer boycott was held in Italy in protest against the continual and uncontrolled rise in consumer prices. The Italian consumers' association ADICONSUM estimates that the average household has lost EUR 1000 in purchasing power in 2003. The average inflation rate in the eurozone is 2.1%, with the highest rate (3.9%) in Ireland. The rates for Italy, Greece and Portugal have risen to 2.9%, 3.5% and 3.7% respectively.

Italy's inflation rate has returned to the level of last January, and the general trend clearly implies a constant rise in consumer prices.

1. What detailed information does the Commission intend to provide on the plans for action on the matter of the governments concerned, especially the Italian government?
2. What action will the Commission take, as a matter of urgency, to protect consumers' purchasing power?