

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3644/03  
by Salvador Jové Peres (GUE/NGL)  
to the Commission

Subject: Reform of the COM in olive oil

Following the introduction of production aids for table olives, EU 15 production increased by around 70%. Given that there are no surpluses and that it is unlikely that consumption would have increased on this scale, the most plausible explanation is that the introduction of production aids has substantially improved transparency in the table olives market.

In the light of the possible abolition of the link with production, to what extent does the Commission feel that there is a danger that transparency will be lost in the table olives and olive oil market? Against this background, how does it assess the risks as regards loss of quality in the olive oil market and the appearance of oils of doubtful origin?