

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3646/03

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to the Commission

Subject: European Union/Morocco agreement

The Council of Ministers for Agriculture, meeting in March and December 1997, stressed 'the importance of taking account, when defining the Community position in negotiations with third countries, of the characteristics of the Community agricultural market and of the socio-economic repercussions of the proposed concessions on that market, as well as of the need to develop a consistent overall strategy on the subject', and they encouraged 'the Commission to conduct regular analyses of the situation regarding trade in agricultural products and in particular of the impact of preferential arrangements for imports of such products into the Community. They stressed 'the need to have available, before the adoption of negotiating directives or autonomous measures involving concessions on agricultural products, an analysis of the impact of the concessions liable to be granted to third countries or groups of third countries as well as of the advantages which could result for the European Union'.

Has the Commission carried out the impact studies called for by the Council in order to define the Community position in negotiations with Morocco? Will it forward them to Parliament? What is the scheduled timetable for submitting the regular impact studies on the association agreement with Morocco called for by the Council?