

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3875/03
by Francesco Fiori (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Reform of the COM in tobacco

The contents of Commission communication COM (2003) 554 of 23 September 2003 were - despite the extreme sensitivity of the problems examined - substantially controversial, as well as being incomplete, with respect to the analysis offered of the consequences for the EU's tobacco-producing areas.

Besides, the Commission has published the relevant data and documents - whether produced by its own services or commissioned from outside - inexplicably late in the day (see, for example, the assessment of the COM in tobacco by COGEA). The speed-up of the timetable for the 'reform' of the COM in tobacco has made it impossible for the producers to examine and debate the COGEA report in sufficient detail, while the report's numerous annexes have still not been made available.

When does the Commission intend to publish this information?

It is known that, for the report, the Commission asked the University of Parma to prepare analyses of the potential impact on the EU regions mainly concerned of the different options set out in the proposal for the reform of the COM in raw tobacco. Our Greek colleagues have referred to a similar approach made to the University of Thessaloniki; we are not aware of cases in other producer Member States.

Can the Commission state whether the documents relating to the above-mentioned analyses were ever actually produced? If so, can it state whether it will itself publish them in good time, in accordance with the legislative timetable for the proposal for reform of the COM in tobacco now under discussion?