

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0247/04

by Elisabeth Jeggle (PPE-DE) and Peter Liese (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Revision of Regulation (EC) No 2571/97 on the sale of butter at reduced prices and the granting of aid for cream, butter and concentrated butter for use in the manufacture of pastry products, ice-cream and other foodstuffs

We have received queries from medium-sized bakeries with regard to the obligation to provide detailed evidence in respect of butter consumption in excess of seven tonnes per year, and to the problems this causes.

It is impossible for a medium-sized bakery to provide evidence that every single gram of butter sold at reduced prices has been processed, or to bear the huge administrative costs this would entail. This results in regular fines and thus gradual increases in the prices of pastry products.

In this context, is the Commission considering revising the above Regulation (2571/97/EC¹) so that the obligation for bakeries to provide evidence of processing butter in excess of seven tonnes per year is greatly simplified or abolished? Has a revision procedure to this effect already been started on the initiative of a Member State?

¹ OJ L 350, 20.12.1997, p. 3.