

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0624/04  
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to the Commission

Subject: Dumping of imported Norwegian and Faeroese rainbow trout

The question whether the provisional anti-dumping duty laid down by the Commission last September should continue to apply on a definitive basis (for five years) to imports of large rainbow trout from Norway and the Faeroes is at this moment under consideration. The Commission has proposed a 19.9% anti-dumping duty on rainbow trout imported from Norway.

As far as EU fish-farmers are concerned, enforcement of the duty is vital for the continuation of their livelihood. In 2003 Norway supplied almost 7 million kilos of rainbow trout to the Union Member States at the extremely low price of EUR 2.46 per kilo. Production costs in Norway and, for example, Finland are approximately EUR 3.50 per kilo.

The Norwegian dumping stems from overproduction. Last year Norway granted 50 new production licences and offered 60 more for sale at the end of the year. Fish-farming losses in Norway totalled EUR 190 million in 2002 and were even higher last year. About 20% of production is accounted for by rainbow trout.

In its role of overseeing the internal market, what steps will the Commission take, and within what time-frame, to eradicate harmful dumping from the market?