

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0987/04  
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to the Council

Subject: European food aid programme for the poorest

The European food aid programme for the poorest helps as far as it can to reduce poverty and hunger among 34 million Europeans but its future is under threat after 2005, even though it is acknowledged that 110 million people are short of food in the future Europe of 25.

Meeting the population's nutritional needs must remain a priority in a Europe where extreme poverty is spreading and the number of people suffering from malnutrition continues to rise.

Given that Community public intervention stocks are disappearing both physically and legally, what steps will the Council take to ensure that this programme is maintained and developed? With a view to making the scheme more effective, can it not make the necessary changes to the rules so that the distribution of raw materials can be extended to processed products and the programme can include innovative measures aimed at distributing balanced food rations?