

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1187/04  
by Johanna Boogerd-Quaak (ELDR)  
to the Commission

Subject: Measures against price manipulation in the cereals sector

In October 2003, a case of large-scale manipulation of pricing in the cereals sector came to light, which led, inter alia, to the arrest of a Commission official.

1. Can the Commission outline the history of the investigation into this case and the present situation regarding it?
2. Did this manipulation of prices damage the financial interests of the EU, and if so, how seriously?
3. In view of this large-scale manipulation, should the way in which the management of markets in agricultural products is organised be reviewed?
4. What changes to this system and what measures relating to staff has the Commission so far carried out?
5. Will the Commission consult the Court of Auditors about possible improvements which could be made to the present system?