WRITTEN QUESTION E-1279/04 by Franz Turchi (UEN) to the Commission

Subject: Measures protecting the production of chestnuts

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003¹ of 29 September 2003 establishing common rules for direct support schemes under the common agricultural policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers; and having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 2237/2003² of 23 December 2003;

given that Article 83 of Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003 allows Member States to differentiate the aid depending on the product in question, or by increasing or decreasing the national guaranteed areas;

given that Article 87 of Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003 allows Member States to grant national aid in addition to the Community aid;

given that in Article 83 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003, the following are defined as nuts: almonds, hazelnuts or filberts, walnuts, pistachios and locust beans;

can the Commission indicate whether measures are planned to protect the production of chestnuts, as they are nuts, and whether the granting of aid is planned also in the chestnut sector?

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¹ OJ L 270, 21.10.2003, p. 1.

² OJ L 339, 24.12.2003, p. 52.