

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1441/04
by Dorette Corbey (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Discharges of surplus milk into ditches and drains

The European Union's current Common Agricultural Policy is making it difficult to comply with European legislation on water. In the period before the end of the milk quota year (1 April), farmers use various means to rid themselves of surplus milk, one of these being to discharge it into ditches.

1. Is the Commission aware that farmers in the Netherlands and elsewhere discharge surplus milk into ditches and drains?
2. Does the Commission agree that such discharges are absurd, as European tax-payers' money is first used to provide farm subsidies, which then result in discharges into surface waters and drains, which in turn cost water treatment companies money?
3. What will the Commission do to ensure that the Common Agricultural Policy does not impede the correct implementation of European legislation on water?
4. What should or could the competent authorities do to prevent these absurd situations?