

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1507/04
by Ilda Figueiredo (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Changes to the agreements on the reform of aid in the olive oil and cotton sectors

It has been reported in the 'agriculture' portal that the Special Committee on Agriculture, the body providing technical support for the Council's work, has, in an unprecedented move, made significant changes to the texts of the regulations on the reform of the cotton and olive oil sectors.

The news item adds that the changes to some extent water down the policy agreement reached the previous Thursday, making it more acceptable to Spain, which will receive an additional €20 m in the olive oil sector, compared to what it secured in the negotiations, and alters the aid for cotton by reducing the number of hectares eligible for support to 70 000 ha and increasing production-linked aid from €850 per hectare to €1 039 per hectare. The changes will need to be formally approved at the next meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council.

- What information does the Commission have about this matter?
- What agreement has been reached regarding Portugal?