

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1773/04
by Béatrice Patrie (PSE)
to the Council

Subject: End of the EU food aid programme to the most poverty-stricken

Several French NGOs, such as Secours populaire and Banque alimentaire, have contacted me to express their concern at the end of the programme for free distribution of EU agricultural surpluses to charitable organisations. Local representatives of the recipients have also expressed these fears, which are now a central concern of many MEPs.

In view of the reduction of stocks, and since many stocks, such as meat and wheat, are already exhausted, which places the charitable organisations in a very embarrassing situation, what solutions does the Council envisage to alleviate this problem?

Is the Council prepared to support opening a budget line for the amount of the food aid which has been given free until now?

Some charitable organisations would like to see the food aid programme opened up to new products such as fruit and vegetables, fish, pork and poultry. Does the Council think it is possible to satisfy this request?