

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3017/04
by Jean-Claude Fruteau (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: The outermost regions and sugarcane in the reform of the COM in sugar

The communication of 14 July 2004 presents the Commission's thinking with a view to the reform of the common organisation of the market in sugar.

It should not be forgotten that sugar is obtained by processing two different agricultural raw materials: sugarbeet and sugarcane.

Although in terms of quantity sugarbeet is the more common of the two in the EU, sugarcane is an important product in several regions of Europe and more specifically in some of the outermost regions, such as Reunion, where it occupies a central and irreplaceable position in the local economy.

The communication of 14 July goes into detail on sugarbeet, particularly regarding prices and quotas, but does not mention any of the measures envisaged for sugarcane.

Similarly, while the Commission document raises the question of the specific situation of the outermost regions and the derogations which it necessitates, there is no specific proposal to give substance to these recommendations.

Can the Commission clarify its intentions on these two distinct subjects?