

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0501/05
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to the Commission

Subject: Mass exports of EU frozen chicken to Africa

At the briefing organised by APRODEV during the Eighth sitting of the EU-ACP Joint Parliamentary Assembly in The Hague, attention was drawn to the colossal increase in exports of European frozen chicken to Central and West Africa, which are driving African poultry farmers out of their local markets and ruining the rural economy.

The most glaring example is in Cameroon, where between 1996 and 2002, imports of frozen chicken rose by 2100%! The situation is also impacting on human health: 85% of the samples analysed from chicken on sale were unfit for consumption! The marketing conditions mean it is impossible to keep in a state fit for consumption.

This situation is an unwarranted side-effect and a result of the liberalisation pursued by the WTO.

Given the EU's responsibilities, within the CAP, and also as regards defining the rules of international trade within the framework of the WTO, and eradicating poverty and promote food safety in the ACP countries:

1. What measures does the Commission propose taking, specifically within the CAP, to stop the mass exports of EU frozen chicken to Africa?
2. Will the EU's Economic Partnership Agreements with the ACP regions, which will involve a greater opening up of the latter's markets to European products, not dramatically affect the agricultural sector in these countries, already suffering from the aggressive competition represented by more competitive EU products?
3. Within the agricultural negotiations currently going on within the WTO, how has the fragility of the African rural economy, and the need to protect and develop it, been taken into account?