

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2746/05
by Jean-Claude Martinez (NI)
to the Commission

Subject: Inclusion of conventional substances in organic products

Organic production of animal feed is governed by a regulation dating from 1991, which provided, on a transitional basis lasting until 24 August 2005, for the possibility of mixing conventional foodstuffs with foodstuffs produced organically. The only limitation would appear to be a 20% ceiling on such additions.

This exception has become a permanent state of affairs.

In order to reduce their costs, manufacturers of cattle food systematically include conventional raw materials in organic products.

Farmers producing alfalfa, peas, protein crops and other cereals are now left with huge stocks on their hands. Their cashflow situation is deteriorating rapidly.

If the abovementioned exception were renewed, with a ceiling of 15%, it would have devastating consequences for the organic industry.

Can the Commission say whether or not the transitional period ending on 24 August 2005 is to be enforced?