

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3856/05  
by John Whittaker (IND/DEM)  
to the Commission

Subject: Competition policy and the role of the Competition Commissioner

In the recent dialogue with the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Mrs Kroes said that her role was to encourage liberalisation which, in turn, would help consumers through lower prices.

In the hearing held on 11 October in the Committee on International Trade, Ms Josie Riffaud, Member of the International Coordination Committee of Via Campesina, said that prices for consumers of agricultural products had not fallen.

1. What effort is DG Competition making to overcome the gross distortion of competition caused by the EU's own common agricultural policy?
2. The consumption basket of the poorest consumers contains the highest proportion of food. By how much is the price of food for the average EU consumer maintained at an artificially high level by the CAP?