

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2604/06

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to the Commission

Subject: CAP fruit and vegetable regime

A growing number of international organisations are advocating an intake of a minimum of 400g per day of fruit and vegetables in order to prevent avoidable deaths and disability from major chronic diseases. The organisations include the World Health Organisation (1990), the World Cancer Research Fund and American Institute for Cancer Research (1997) and the European Heart Network (1998 and 2002).

It has been estimated that if the EU increased its fruit and vegetables intake to 400g per day, over 50 000 deaths from coronary heart disease and stroke could be avoided; and if the EU increased its fruit and vegetable intake to 600g per day, over 135 000 deaths from coronary heart disease and stroke could be avoided (European Heart Network, Brussels, 2005).

On this background, does the Commission plan changes to its fruit and vegetable regime that will:

- reduce – and in the longer term completely phase out – withdrawal compensation for fruit and vegetables with a view to obtaining lower prices and thus potentially increasing consumption;
- establish schemes that – in the short term – will ensure that withdrawn produce will be redistributed to vulnerable population groups, such as children and low-income groups;
- encourage fruit and vegetable growing by extending the single payment scheme to include fruit and vegetables;
- support the coordination of efforts in the health and agricultural sectors to promote fruit and vegetables to obtain maximum effect?