

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1076/07
by Margrietus van den Berg (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Dumping of European products on the African market

Many small farmers in developing countries are being put out of business by cheap products from the European Union. For example, each year some 182 000 tonnes of poultrymeat are exported from western European countries to Africa. As a result of the wholesale dumping of European poultry products on the Cameroon market, between 1996 and 2002 roughly 90% of poultry farmers in that country went bankrupt (source: Association citoyenne de défense des intérêts collectifs (ACDIC)). Other European products, such as onions, tomatoes and milk, are also flooding local markets in Africa. Farmers and producers in Europe can charge low prices because they receive subsidies, have high-quality infrastructure at their disposal and can draw on know-how and well-trained people.

1. Is the Commission aware of the fact that this unfair competition is depriving small farmers in Africa of their main source of income?
2. Is the Commission prepared to put an immediate end to this unacceptable state of affairs?