

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2913/07

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to the Commission

Subject: Traditional production of salt

The traditional method of salt production is based on entirely natural processes which have obtained international certification for their very high quality standards. Despite those recognised high standards, this method is still classified as part of the chemical industry and is now being severely squeezed by the big salt refining industries based on mechanised extraction.

What is concerned is an activity dependent to a large extent on the climatic and morphological characteristics of the areas in which it takes place, combining quality with the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity and acting as a stimulant to the local economies. Does the Commissioner not consider that, as a matter of urgency, it is necessary to promote the classification of salt production within the agri-food sector and to ensure that traditional salt production is entitled to obtain protection and certification of origin, on lines similar to those laid down by Regulations (EC) No 509/2006¹ and (EC) No 510/2006² for other agricultural and food products?

¹ OJ L 93, 31.3.2006, p. 1

² OJ L 93, 31.3.2006, p. 12