

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4196/07  
by Josu Ortuondo Larrea (ALDE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Situation in the market for albacore tuna in the EC

Albacore tuna fishing is a cornerstone of the economy for the European fishing industry, chiefly along the Atlantic coast. Most of this sector has been particularly affected in recent years by the poor state of anchovy stocks, which led to the anchovy fishery being closed.

It has been found that imports of frozen albacore tuna have been arriving on Community territory in 2007 at a price markedly below the withdrawal price fixed in Regulation (EC) No 2032/2006<sup>1</sup>. This situation is totally unsustainable, and if it continues it may destroy the extractive businesses affected.

One of the objectives of Regulation (EC) No 104/2000<sup>2</sup> on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products is to encourage market stability by appropriate means, implemented in compliance with the Community's international commitments, particularly with regard to the provisions of the WTO.

Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 stipulates that in the event that, owing to imports or exports, the market in these products is affected by serious disturbance likely to jeopardise the goals set out in Article 33 of the Treaty, appropriate safeguard measures may be applied in trade with third countries until the disturbance or threat of disturbance has passed.

Does the Commission not believe that all the circumstances are in place for the urgent adoption of safeguard measures to correct the disturbed market for albacore tuna in the EC?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 414, 30.12.2006, p. 58.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 17, 21.1.2000, p. 22.