

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4823/07
by Gian Paolo Gobbo (UEN)
to the Commission

Subject: Suspension of milk quotas - steep price rises in the dairy sector

In the last few months there has been an extremely steep increase in the price of milk in Europe caused, inter alia, by an unexpected increase in world consumption (for example, the Chinese consumed an average of 9 litres of milk per head per year in 2000, whilst they now consume 25 litres per head) and inadequate world production.

In view of this worrying situation on the milk market, which is causing supply problems on the European market in dairy products such as butter, to the serious detriment of the food industry, does not the Commission consider that it should suspend, even if only temporarily, the system of so-called 'milk quotas' in order to allow the most dynamic producers to meet the needs of the market?

Does it not also consider it appropriate to suspend assessments of previous years in order to allow all producers in the sector to make every effort to remedy this exceptional situation on the market?