

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5060/07
by Bogdan Golik (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Promotion and information actions for agricultural products on the internal market and in third countries

In May 2007, the Commission presented a proposal for a Council regulation on promotion and information actions for agricultural products on the internal market and in third countries. This document is part of the process of simplifying Community agricultural law. It does not cover all areas linked to the promotion of agricultural products on the internal market and in third countries, as it concerns only the Council regulations, and not the Commission's implementing provisions.

How will the Commission increase the effectiveness of the mechanism for the promotion of agricultural products in future? In the light of the CAP reforms carried out thus far and future developments at the WTO negotiations, i.e. the reduction of customs tariffs, export subsidies and domestic support, does it not seem reasonable to expand the instrument for the promotion of agricultural products and increase the budget for promotion and information actions? This instrument does not negatively affect trade and, at the same time, it could have a positive impact in terms of increasing the competitiveness of Community exports.

It also seems reasonable for all agricultural products and processed agricultural products to be covered by the instruments for promotion on the internal market and in third countries. The present system, which restricts the loading list to certain sectors and agricultural products, is provoking accusations from the Union's WTO partners of failure to comply with WTO rules and the linking of support and production. Similarly, the list of third countries should be extended to all third countries, in line with the principle of non-discrimination.