

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3014/08
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to the Commission

Subject: Food sufficiency

According to UN data, food prices 'rocketed' by 35% between February 2007 and January 2008, making an overall increase of 65% since 2002. It is estimated that, during 2007 alone, the price of dairy products increased by 80% and cereals by 42%, with rice, maize and wheat hitting historically record levels.

The main reasons for this situation are the increase in demand for food from growing consumer powers, such as China and India, the detrimental effects of climate change on crops and the use of cereals to produce biofuels.

In the light of the above, does the Commission intend to take any measures to ensure the stability of food prices in the EU? Has it identified any cases of exploitation by retailers of food shortages on the market? If so, in which countries and which cases? Has the Commission analysed the impact on the European food market of the increasing demand for food in developing economies, such as China and India?