

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3087/08
by Iles Braghetto (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Free distribution of food products

Since 1986/1987, Community surpluses of food products have been given to charities in the Member States for free distribution to needy people, which has been welcomed.

The reform of the CAP makes it necessary to modify the programme, as it is intended that stockpiles of food should disappear.

- Can the Commission indicate its general view on the reform of the free distribution of food aid?
- As the effectiveness of the existing regulation has over the years promoted useful cooperation between the Directorate-General for Agriculture, States involved and charities to which the distribution of food to the needy has been delegated, does the Commission intend, under the reform, to continue the same operational approach as has been adopted to date?
- As the foods produced have become a vital source of support for needy people and as their free distribution not only constitutes a means of subsistence but is also of great social significance as a symbol of sharing and solidarity, does not the Commission consider that the proposal to replace food aid with possible spending vouchers seems the least appropriate way of promoting social cohesion?