

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5912/08
by Rosa Miguélez Ramos (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Entry into Galicia of low-price surplus milk from other Member States

Milk values have dropped sharply in Galicia in recent months, even though there are no market, consumption or production data that would justify such a fall. It appears that this price drop was in fact imposed by processing industries, which have even threatened to suspend collections.

According to producers and dairy industry representatives, the cause of this anomaly can be found in the massive entry of surplus milk at bargain prices from other Member States that, unlike Spain, benefit from a production quota that is higher than their internal consumption.

Under the current quota system, Galician dairy farmers have made significant efforts towards restructuring, leading to the disappearance of almost 70% of farms, with the aim of not exceeding the amount assigned to Spain, which is insufficient for its internal consumption.

Does the Commission take the view that diverting national dairy production surpluses to the market in a Member State other than that in which the milk was produced, instead of processing it into milk powder, is legal under the Community legal system?

How does the Commission monitor such practices, which could be described as commercial dumping?

Does the Commission believe that introducing standardised contracts between industries and producers in each Member State could prevent this unilateral and unjustified pressure on milk prices?