

**Question for written answer E-008504/2011  
to the Commission  
Rule 117  
Hynek Fajmon (ECR)**

Subject: Critical situation on the European sugar market

According to the press and to market participants themselves, the situation on the European sugar market has worsened in recent months. Concrete evidence of this trend is the rapid rise in the price of sugar. In the Czech Republic, for example, the sugar price rose by 27.3% in August 2011 alone. The surge in sugar prices is causing significant problems for food companies and is not welcomed by consumers.

I should therefore like to ask the Commission the following questions:

1. Does the Commission consider developments on the European sugar market to be a problem? If so, what action does it intend to take?
2. It is clear that the main reason for the problems on the sugar market in the EU is the nonsensical system of quotas, which makes it impossible to operate efficiently on this market. When will the Commission take action to abolish this system?