

**Question for written answer E-005623/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Libor Rouček (S&D)

Subject: Cyprus Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) application

In July 2009, the Commission received an application to register 'halloumi', a type of cheese produced on the island of Cyprus, with a Protected Designation of Origin, pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 510/2006. The application was later withdrawn by the Republic of Cyprus authorities and resubmitted in May 2012.

If successful, however, the application is likely to have a damaging effect on producers in the northern part of Cyprus, insofar as 'hellim', a Turkish Cypriot name for the same product, would be excluded from the designation and left without a suitable 'national' inspection procedure, thereby limiting its export potential and raising concerns of unfair competition. The production of 'hellim' accounts for approximately 20 % of Turkish Cypriot exports.

1. Is the Commission aware of the aforementioned application's implications for the Turkish Cypriot community and economy?
2. What is the Commission prepared to do to prevent the potentially discriminatory effects of the application?