

ORAL QUESTION H-0618/02  
for Question Time at the part-session in October 2002  
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Christel Fiebiger  
to the Commission

Subject: Use of unspent 2002 agricultural appropriations for the benefit of farmers affected by floods

The Commission has reacted quickly to the devastating floods affecting large areas of the EU Member States Germany and Austria, and the Czech Republic, an applicant country, by announcing that farmers who have suffered damage will receive help in the form, inter alia, of early disbursement of direct payments.

However, the extent of the damage means that measures to bridge the current financial difficulties are not in themselves enough. In many cases additional money is needed.

What, therefore, is the Commission's attitude to deciding not to treat the remaining financial surpluses for the current farm year as returns to the Member States but instead to make them available, as a gesture of solidarity, as non-repayable subsidies for severely affected farms in the countries in question?

Tabled: 03.09.2002  
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