

ORAL QUESTION H-0793/03
for Question Time at the part-session in December 2003
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure
by Encarnación Redondo Jiménez
to the Commission

Subject: Reform of the olive oil sector

Among the EU's agricultural products, olive oil is one of those with the brightest future, thanks above all to its positive effects on health and its excellent consumer image. Nonetheless, the Commission's recent proposal for reform does not take account of the realities of production in the Community: this could lead to a slowdown of production and could even substantially prejudice the expansion of the sector, to the detriment of the rural economy in many parts of the Union and, in the long run, to the benefit of third-country imports.

The Commission also fails to take account of the agreement reached in 1998 to review the common organisation of the market once the Union has reliable data on the sector. Is the Commission, despite this, sure that its proposed scheme is consistent with the objective of creating a competitive agricultural sector, or, indeed, with the objective agreed at the Lisbon summit of supporting those economic structures which promote full employment?

Tabled: 04.12.2003
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