

ORAL QUESTION H-0561/04  
for Question Time at the part-session in January 2005  
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Anne Ferreira  
to the Commission

Subject: Community food aid programme for the most deprived persons in 2005

The Community food aid programme for the most deprived persons helps to reduce poverty and hunger among 110 million Europeans who do not have enough to eat in the 25-member EU.

In 2004, EUR 216 m were allocated to this programme and hundreds of thousands of tonnes of food products from Community intervention stocks were allocated to associations helping deprived persons. However, in 2005, only the EUR 216 m budget line was maintained. Thus the continuation and scope of this food aid programme are under threat.

Many associations are alarmed about the problems they will be faced with.

Meeting our fellow citizens' food needs must remain a priority of the European Community, in which extreme poverty is spreading and the number of people suffering from malnutrition is unfortunately steadily rising.

What does the Commission propose to do to offset the disappearance of intervention stocks and thus ensure that the European food aid programme can continue and that the food needs of the most deprived persons are met?

Tabled: 16.12.2004  
fr