

ORAL QUESTION H-0932/07
for Question Time at the part-session in December 2007
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Alain Hutchinson
to the Commission

Subject: Agrofuels

For a whole variety of reasons (increasing scarcity of food crops, rising food prices, financial speculation, etc.) it appears to be the case that a rush to produce agrofuels might rapidly worsen the problem of hunger in the South, more especially in Africa. On 25 October 2007 the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food issued a report calling for a five-year moratorium on the production of crops intended for conversion into fuel: the idea being, once that time lag has passed, to move on directly to second-generation biofuels made from crop waste. Another possible solution would be to produce agrofuels from inedible crops grown on arid or semi-arid land. Will the Commission back adoption of the moratorium and/or encourage generous support for research into second-generation agrofuels so as to ensure that the globalisation of 'green petrol' is not brought about at the expense of the least developed countries and their small-scale producers, bearing in mind, moreover, that large agricultural producers and transnational companies are already in the best position to profit from the new situation on the energy market?

Tabled: 22.11.2007
fr