

ORAL QUESTION H-0216/08
for Question Time at the part-session in April 2008
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Daniel Dăianu
to the Commission

Subject: CAP and land as a strategic asset

The international economic milieu is burdened by a deepening credit crisis, bouts of protectionism, and growing concerns about the impact of climate change and the formidable industrial rise of Asia (China and India, in particular) on the prices of basic commodities. The struggle for scarce resources is likely increasingly to involve good land, as the mainstay for food production. As a matter of fact, good land is turning into a strategic asset, reflecting the way other countries use non-renewable energy resources as strategic assets. Is it not ominous that, already, we are facing a visible trade-off between the prices of food and energy produced from grain? In view of this geopolitical and economic background how does the Commission envisage the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) over the longer run? Can narrowly formulated cost-benefit considerations and the risk of excessive dependency on unsecure sources of food supply lie behind a reform of the CAP?

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