

ORAL QUESTION H-0338/08
for Question Time at the part-session in May 2008
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Alain Hutchinson
to the Commission

Subject: Speculation and the food crisis

Financial speculation is a major factor behind rising prices and the world food crisis. The commodities market in particular is attracting growing interest from investment funds.

Is the Commission prepared to accept that, for the benefit of the few, commodities such as rice or wheat are becoming the focus of speculation while, at the same time, millions of people are dying of hunger?

Does it intend to take practical steps to end all financial speculation which directly jeopardises the food security of millions of people?

Does it also intend to promote the implementation at international level of a mechanism preventing countries from restricting exports of foodstuffs of which they hold large stocks and, more generally, from pursuing all policies that have the direct result of preventing the most vulnerable from exercising their right to food?

Tabled: 29.04.2008
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