

ORAL QUESTION H-0197/09

for Question Time at the part-session in April 2009  
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Konstantinos Droutsas  
to the Commission

Subject: Elimination of small dairy farmers by dairy industries in Greece

The dairy industries in Greece are ruthlessly eliminating small dairy farmers - who are responding with demonstrations - by constantly lowering producer prices for cow's milk in order to increase their profits. One of the major companies has announced that, as of 1 May 2009, the milk cartel is to stop buying milk from 120 small producers and will limit the distribution of fresh milk in favour of long-life milk, increasing imports. Another dairy industry has announced a reduction in milk prices and an extension of the payment period by one month. The number of milk producers in Greece has fallen by 80% over the last 15 years and production, which is no more than 800 000 tonnes, covers less than one half of consumption.

What is the Commission's position on the disappearance of small and medium-sized dairy farmers in a country with a milk production deficit, the reduction in producer prices with a simultaneous increase in consumer prices, the abrupt change in consumer habits and the reduction in nutritious substances in milk through limiting the consumption of fresh milk caused by the CAP and the relentless pursuit of profit?

Tabled: 31.03.2009

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