

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0122/06

pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure

by Duarte Freitas, Carmen Fraga Estévez, Salvador Garriga Polledo, Esther Herranz García, Elisabeth Jeggle, Albert Maat, Mairead McGuinness, Francisco Millán Mon, James Nicholson, Neil Parish and Daniel Varela Suanzes-Carpegna, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
to the Commission

Subject: Milk quotas

The European Commission intends to undertake a 'health check' of the CAP in 2008, which is likely to include a debate on the future of milk quotas. The existing regime of milk quotas, which has been in force since 1984 and is set to continue until 2015, has been questioned from certain quarters and was discussed at the informal meeting of the agriculture ministers in Oulu.

In view of these signs of a possible progressive dismantling of the quota system (phasing-out), it seems necessary now to have a proper debate so that producers and the industry have time to adapt to possible future changes.

Does the European Commission intend to maintain the system of milk quotas until 2015, which offers a certain protection for many producers, or does it intend to dismantle the quota system progressively or gradually from 2008 onwards? If phasing out is intended, what specific measures might be involved for milk producers?

Tabled: 18.10.2006

Forwarded: 20.10.2006

Deadline for reply: 27.10.2006