

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0067/07
pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure
by Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos, on behalf of the PSE Group
to the Commission

Subject: Consumer protection and rise in prices

The recent cases of increases in consumer prices linked to the rise in the cost of primary agricultural products have obliged the Commission to take certain measures such as lifting set-aside for cereals, and to start thinking about urgent solutions for other sectors such as the dairy sector, which has been affected by the rise in prices for commodities destined for animal feed.

As well as affecting European production sectors, this situation is also having a strong direct impact on European consumers and family economies.

Even though the European Parliament welcomes measures such as the lifting of set-aside and the Commission's announcement at the Strasbourg part-session that it will be extending this measure by a further marketing year if necessary, it also expresses its concern at the current price rises, a situation which demands fresh urgent measures and merits more thorough consideration on the part of the European institutions, and not only in the context of the 'health check'.

Can the Commission specify what steps it will take with the sectors affected in order to deal with the above situation?

Does the Commission envisage specific measures with regard to consumer protection and safeguarding family economies?

Does the Commission not believe that the various price rises merit more wide-ranging consideration, going beyond the introduction of specific measures for each situation (cereals, milk, etc.)?

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Deadline for reply: 23.10.2007