

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1700/02
by Alexandros Baltas (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Implementation in Greece of the Community scheme for production aid for cotton in the 2001-2002 marketing year in accordance with Regulation 1051/2001

- Some cotton producers have ignored or infringed Community regulations on cotton production, thereby compromising and jeopardising producers who comply with the regulations.
- Furthermore, the reform of the Community regulatory framework governing the cotton aid scheme was completed much later than the production period and, in any case, after the fields had been prepared and the cotton seed sown.
- The Commission's proposal for a regulation also differed in many substantive respects from the text finally adopted by the Council - Regulation (EC) 1051/2001¹ - causing confusion and problems for producers.

In view of the above, what measures will the Commission take to protect law-abiding producers from the damage they may suffer as a result of the conduct of producers who do not comply with the rules or try to commit fraud?

How will it ensure that the legitimate expectations of producers are not cruelly frustrated by the late publication of the reformed regulatory framework for the cotton aid scheme?

Will the Commission take measures either of a corrective nature (changes to those points in the regulations which are unclear) or of a transitional nature (adoption of transitional arrangements for the 2001 harvest where the late publication of the regulations caused problems for producers)?

¹ OJ L 148, 1.6.2001, p. 3