

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3298/02
by Francesco Fiori (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Clarifying the situation for organic farming

Today organic farming is an opportunity for farmers. It meets the specific demands of a particular group of consumers. It is not an alternative method but an additional option. If organic farming continues to expand it could potentially include all traditional farmers. However, organic farming is still penalised by a degree of confusion. Consumers are more influenced by fancy product names and the distributor's brand superimposed on them, than by labels certifying products as organic.

How does the Commission intend to avoid confusion arising from the existence of different terminology, the lack of harmonisation, the often heterogeneous presentation of products, and the confusion of organic products, natural products and quality products?

While the action to prevent fraudulent references to organic production is to be welcomed, what action does the Commission intend to take to ensure that products are clearly identified and how will it ensure that the consumer is provided with accurate and clear information by means of labelling, certification, traceability and monitoring?