

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3397/02
by Werner Langen (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Decrease in the land area under vines in Italy

According to recent press reports, the area under vines in Italy has shrunk by more than 20% virtually 'overnight'. According to new Italian statistical surveys, the total area under vines is now no more than 675 000 ha; in 1990, it was 862 400 ha. This drastic reduction in the area under vines in Italy is prompting speculation and suspicions in a variety of directions.

Can the Commission therefore say:

- what figures it has for the annual decrease in land area under vines in Italy between 1990 and 2000, what form the decrease actually took, and in which regions and for which vine varieties there were changes in land area under vines during that period?
- what subsidies were paid to Italian vineyards each year between 1990 and 2000 on the basis of which areas under vine, and what was the position with regard to distillation of Italian wines in that 10-year period?
- whether it sees a link with increased sales of Italian wines and cultivation on non-legalised land, and what action it proposes to take to eliminate any such improper practices?