

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0722/04  
by María Herranz García (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: COM in olive oil

Quite apart from the fact that it does not take into account the realities of Spanish production, the proposed reform of the common organisation of the market in olive oil has a number of other harmful features (such as retention of the current arrangements for private storage, even though those arrangements have not made it possible for swift, flexible action to be taken in response to any disruption in the market).

Would the Commission reconsider its proposal by bringing the arrangements for the private storage of olive oil into line with the realities of the market and by incorporating an automatic opening and closing price mechanism?

Furthermore, under the Commission proposal the number of olive trees in an olive grove may not differ by more than 10% from the number registered on 1 January 2005 in the olive-oil GIS. Is the Commission not aware that, in restricting the increase in the number of olive trees to 10% when an olive grove is replanted, it is seriously damaging the interests of Spanish olive groves by preventing the replanting of groves which cannot be adapted to modern cultivation techniques?