

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1443/04
by Niels Busk (ELDR)
to the Commission

Subject: Feta

It has been reported that Austria has chosen to ban the use of the designation 'Feta' for producers who do not fulfil the requirements set out in Commission Regulation (EC) No 1829/2002¹, which protects the designation 'Feta' for a specific Greek cheese.

In so doing, Austria has chosen not to make use of the possible transitional arrangement in accordance with which the designation 'Feta' can be utilised for a period of up to 5 years after registration, if the producers concerned do fulfil certain conditions.

It is reported within the Austrian dairy industry that Austria has chosen not to make use of the transitional arrangement and that this is a consequence of a contact and/or correspondence between the Austrian authorities and the EU Commission initiated by the latter.

Will the Commission please indicate whether such contact between the Commission and the Austrian authorities has taken place and, if so, also provide information concerning the background and the basis for this contact.

¹ OJ L 277, 15.10.2002, p. 10.