

WRITTEN QUESTION P-5349/06  
by Albert Maat (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Livestock premiums and I&R of cattle

The annual reports of the EU Court of Auditors for 2005 indicate that, in a number of Member States, considerable differences exist between the numbers of animals that farmers claim to have and the actual numbers of animals which inspections reveal to be eligible for subsidy. In the case both of the suckler cow premium and of the special cattle premium, the greatest discrepancies were found in Italy, Malta and Slovenia.

The Court of Auditors also notes that the shortcomings in the system for identifying and registering cattle which were described in Special Report 6/2004 persist, particularly in the case of cattle traded between Member States.

Can the Commission nonetheless guarantee that the I&R system for cattle is watertight in those countries and that the EU does not run any risks, inter alia in the fields of disease control and food safety?