

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0385/07  
by José Javier Pomés Ruiz (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject:           Proposal for a reform of the common market organisation (CMO) in fruit and vegetables

According to the agenda set out on 24 January 2007, the Commission will present a proposal for a regulation on reform of the CMO in fruit and vegetables.

Since the last reform of the CMO in fruit and vegetables in 1996, the situation in this sector has altered considerably owing to growth in production in the Mediterranean basin, which has reached almost 20 million tonnes. As a result, European markets are becoming saturated and citrus producers are experiencing a worrying drop in income.

The media has drawn attention to the latest protests by farmers' organisations and the general complaint that current price levels are not high enough even to cover production costs.

Bearing in mind the specific characteristics of double-use (fresh and processed) multiannual wood crops that distinguish them from annual herbaceous crops, has the Commission considered the need to exclude citrus production from the reform of the CMO in fruit and vegetables and for it to be subject to special treatment?