

WRITTEN QUESTION P-6335/08
by Gábor Harangozó (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Current situation of cereal markets - maize production

I would like to draw the Commission's attention to the current severe pressure on the cereal markets especially in Central Europe. The combined effect of excessive cereal production, the unfavourable international market conditions and the traditional volatility of cereal production in Central Europe have led to market prices below EUR 100/tons in some Hungarian regions.

As prices are under the intervention price, we need action to protect producers and the stability of the market. In this respect, I would like to ask the Commission whether this exceptional situation has been taken into account and if so what is envisaged?

Under its current financial situation, Hungary cannot, unfortunately, afford to buy the excess of production itself. I would like therefore to know the opinion of the Commission on the following proposals to stabilise the market in the framework of the above mentioned special circumstances:

- lifting the limitation of maize intervention purchases during the 2008/2009 intervention period in land-locked Member States and serving therefore its intended purpose as a safety net and even allowing for benefits to be made next spring when market situation would have changed;
- opening a tender for land-locked Member States to export cereals to third countries with export subsidy;
- special private storage measures for cereals in spite of current EU regulations.