

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0745/09
by Pilar Ayuso (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Community agri-food promotion policy

Regulation (EC) No 3/2008¹ has simplified the agri-food promotion scheme that has been in force since 2000. However, it still does not meet the expectations of those working in the industry, whether they are farmers or in agri-food production and sales. The need for a review becomes even more obvious now we are contemplating impending abolition of the refund scheme, and the benefits of a promotion and information scheme acceptable for WTO purposes within what is known as the 'green box'.

The various interested parties meeting in the Advisory group on the promotion of agri-food products in the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development have unanimously confirmed the need to improve the current scheme by making it more flexible, less complicated, more open to the needs of the industry and more effective.

Can the Commission confirm that it is planning to amend the present Regulation (EC) No 3/2008?

If so, could it indicate the essential points that it intends to include in that amendment?

When will it be publicly launching the debate on such a review, and in what way – via a Green Paper, public consultation, or a Communication?

¹ OJ L 3, 5.1.2008, p. 1.