

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2114/09
by Florencio Luque Aguilar (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Cotton subsidies

The reform of the cotton sector which came into force in 2006 has led to a sharp fall in Spanish cotton production, currently running at 54 000 tonnes, i.e. a mere 15% of 2005 production levels. The sheer scale of this fall means that it is essential that the cotton-ginning sector be dismantled as soon as possible.

Once Council Regulation (EC) No 637/2008¹ extending the duration of the national restructuring programmes for the cotton sector from four years to eight has been amended, the Commission will have to revise the implementing Regulation (EC) No 1145/2008² with a view to undertaking the appropriate changes.

Does the Commission intend, in its amendment of the implementing regulation, to take account of the requests from the sector to facilitate the payment of subsidies as soon as the dismantling of the ginning plants begins, and that the maximum amount of subsidy per sector be increased, within the approved budgetary limits?

¹ OJ L 178, 5.7.2008, p. 1.

² OJ L 308, 19.11.2008, p. 17.