

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3124/09
by Giovanni Robusti (UEN)
to the Commission

Subject: Community levies on milk produced but not invoiced

In an official press release, the Italian financial police, the body responsible for monitoring Community fraud, has condemned the existence of illegal practices in Piedmont by Italian nationals acting as the first milk purchaser.

The aim of these practices was to conceal the vast quantities of milk being produced in excess of the quotas but never invoiced and to conceal the true quality of the milk through blending, in addition to the receipt of undue funding.

1. Is the Community levy charged on milk which can clearly be shown to have been produced but which has not been invoiced?
2. Can refunds be claimed for Community aid given to producers or other organisations on the basis that they had properly applied EU regulations?
3. Should bodies which have operated in this fraudulent manner not have their position as first milk purchaser immediately revoked by the national authorities?
4. Is OLAF empowered to investigate whether the Italian authorities have acted properly in this matter, both before and after the discovery of the irregularities denounced by the national supervisory authorities?
5. Where recognised producer organisations in Italy have been involved in this case, even if they have been guilty solely of lack of vigilance, should they be allowed to continue operating or should their activities be suspended until the investigations are complete?