

Answer given by Mr Van den Broek on behalf of the Commission*(20 October 1997)*

The Commission is well aware of the danger of nuclear incidents in the Central and eastern European countries (CEEC) and the New independent states (NIS). Accordingly, some MECU 700 have been committed (1990-1997) to the Phare and Tacis nuclear safety programmes.

An interim evaluation of the Phare and Tacis programmes by independent interim consultants has recently been completed and transmitted to the Parliament in June, 1997. This evaluation indicates that despite undeniable implementation difficulties, a majority of nuclear safety projects are achieving their objectives.

The Commission is presently engaged in an examination of the changes that might be brought to the policy orientations and the implementation mechanisms in the nuclear safety sector, in order to improve the effectiveness of the programmes. Initial discussions have also taken place with Member States, in the PHARE and TACIS committees, and with relevant committees of the Parliament (committee on the environment, public health and consumer protection, committee on research, technological development and energy, committee on budgetary control). The Commission is finalizing its position on this matter on the basis of the reactions it has received. The results will be fed into the new programming cycle 1998 which will start shortly.

(98/C 117/166)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3019/97**by Amedeo Amadeo (NI) to the Commission***(1 October 1997)*

Subject: Improving the production and marketing of honey

Will the Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) laying down general rules for the application of measures to improve the production and marketing of honey (COM(96) 596 final — 96/0282 CNS) ⁽¹⁾ make vocational training programmes for young farmers one of its priority aims?

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 378, 13.12.1996, p. 20.

(98/C 117/167)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3020/97**by Amedeo Amadeo (NI) to the Commission***(1 October 1997)*

Subject: Improving the production and marketing of honey

Will the Commission include measures to combat all diseases afflicting bees, which should not be restricted solely to fighting varroa-mite disease, in the Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) laying down general rules for the application of measures to improve the production and marketing of honey (COM(96) 596 final — 96/0282 CNS) ⁽¹⁾?

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 378, 13.12.1996, p. 20.

(98/C 117/168)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3021/97**by Amedeo Amadeo (NI) to the Commission***(1 October 1997)*

Subject: Improving the production and marketing of honey

The Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) laying down general rules for the application of measures to improve the production and marketing of honey (COM(96) 596 final — 96/0282 CNS) ⁽¹⁾ follows up a consultation paper on European apiculture issued in 1994. Its main aim is to use ECU 15 million a year in Community