

6. Average total appropriation received per worker per hectare in cereal production from the EAGGF Guarantee Section: as with point 3, the Commission does not have this information.
7. Percentage of Community agricultural production represented by cereals: 9,4 %.
8. Community trade balance for cereals: + € 2 503 million.
9. Area under fruit and vegetables in the Community: 4 999 000 ha (including citrus fruit).
10. Total number of fruit and vegetable producers in the Community: 1 620 000 (total number of holdings with either fruit or vegetable enterprises).
11. Average labour-force density per hectare in fruit and vegetable production: the Commission does not have this information. However, the figures collected by the FADN show that, for all holdings specialised in fruit and vegetables, the average amounts of labour used are respectively 21,94 and 17,41 work units/year per 100 hectares of total utilised agricultural area (i.e. including land used for other purposes than fruit and vegetables).
12. Total EAGGF Guarantee Section expenditure on fruit and vegetables: € 1 553,3 million.
13. Average total appropriation spent per fruit and vegetable producer under the EAGGF Guarantee Section: € 959 per holding.
14. Average total payment received per worker per hectare in fruit and vegetable production from the EAGGF Guarantee Section: as with point 11, the Commission does not have this information.
15. Community trade balance for fruit and vegetables (Chapters 7 and 8 of the Combined Nomenclature): - € 6 885 million.
16. Percentage of Community agricultural production represented by fruit and vegetables (including citrus fruit): 15,2 %.

(2001/C 163 E/093)

**WRITTEN QUESTION E-3322/00**

**by Paulo Casaca (PSE) to the Commission**

(25 October 2000)

*Subject:* Sugar Management Committee opinion on draft Regulation No 1481/2000

Does the Commission agree that according to current legislation, draft Regulation No 1481/2000 of 6 July 2000 <sup>(1)</sup> should be referred to the Sugar Management Committee for its opinion?

If so, would the Commission provide me with a copy of the Committee's approval of the draft regulation pursuant to the minutes of the Committee's meeting?

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 167, 7.7.2000, p. 6.

**Answer given by Mr Fischler on behalf of the Commission**

(8 December 2000)

Council Regulation (EEC) No 1600/92 of 15 February 1992 introducing specific measures in respect of certain agricultural products for the Azores and Madeira <sup>(1)</sup> provides in Article 10 that the Commission should determine, according to the 'Comitology' procedure, the measures for implementing the specific supply arrangement. These measures include in particular producing special supply balances.

It is within this framework that the Commission submitted to the management committee for sugar, on 21 June 2000, a draft Commission Regulation establishing the sugar forecast supply balance for the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands for the marketing year 2000/01 provided for under Regulation (EEC) No 1600/92 and Council Regulation (EEC) No 1601/92 of 15 June 1992 introducing specific measures concerning certain agricultural products for the Canary Islands.

Once the management committee for sugar had expressed its favourable opinion on the proposed measures, the Commission adopted the above Regulation (EC) No 1481/2000 on 6 July 2000 establishing the sugar forecast supply for the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands for the marketing year 2000/2001 provided for under Regulation (EEC) No 1600/92 and Council Regulation (EEC) No 1601/92 <sup>(2)</sup>.

A copy of the draft regulation text, as submitted to the management committee, is being sent directly to the Honourable Member and to Parliament's Secretariat.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 173, 27.6.1992.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 167, 7.7.2000.

(2001/C 163 E/094)

**WRITTEN QUESTION P-3326/00**

**by Mariotto Segni (UEN) to the Commission**

(18 October 2000)

*Subject:* Severe water shortage in Sardinia

Sardinia is currently suffering from a critical water shortage, which is affecting the agricultural sector in particular but also supplies of drinking water and water for industry.

This cannot be passed off as a temporary emergency, as there is no doubt that there has been a radical change in the climate over the last sixty years and it should be noted that, at the beginning of this year's draw-off period (March), the island's artificial reservoirs contained only 27 % of their total capacity and the three years from 1997 to 2000 appear to have been the driest in the last 78 years.

The level of available water supplies, the equivalent of 270 m<sup>3</sup> per inhabitant per year, is far below the 1000 m<sup>3</sup> laid down by the Worldwatch Institute as the minimum threshold below which scarcity of supply places constraints on the primary needs of domestic consumers and on economic development; it is comparable to the level of supply in countries such as Egypt, Libya and Saudi Arabia.

This problem is threatening Sardinia's economy and disrupting the lives of all the island's inhabitants.

The measures set out under 1.1 and 1.2 in the ROP are completely inadequate to cope with one of the most serious water shortages in the Mediterranean area.

In view of the foregoing:

1. Would the Commission state what concrete proposals are currently being considered to tackle this situation, with particular emphasis on the framework for the future?
2. What 'ad hoc' measures to address natural disasters could be used to provide financial support for action to optimise the distribution of the island's water resources, limit leaks, recycle urban effluent, construct new water storage facilities and divert water courses which are not being used towards artificial reservoirs?