

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983 - 1984

13 April 1983

DOCUMENT 1-187/83

ORAL QUESTION (D-88/82)

with a date, pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure
by Mr KYRKOS, Mr ZIAGAS, Mr PLASKOVITIS, Mr VGENOPOULOS
and Mr LAGAKOS

to the Commission of the European Communities

SUBJECT: The problem of Greek dried grapes

On the accession of Greece to the Community, the Commission issued a regulation providing for the COM to be applied to Greek dried grapes. Although the Commission's action was seen as a considerable success for Greece, accession proved catastrophic for the Greek economy in this respect, because:

- (1) It was not accompanied by specific measures on the part of the Commission to mark Community preference in the dried grape market; as a result the European market is now flooded with dried grapes from Turkey, America and South Africa.
- (2) It was not accompanied by parallel measures to improve the conditions of production so as progressively to reduce production costs and to make Greek dried grapes competitive internationally.
- (3) No provision was made to subsidize the cost of transporting dried grapes from the southernmost corner of the Community to markets located in the centre of Europe - i.e. marketing premiums - and consequently last year's production, amounting to 100,000 tonnes, is now in storage ./.

and is likely to go for distillation. To this will probably be added this year's production, amounting to between 70 and 80 thousand tonnes. Despite the Commission's view that it safeguards agricultural incomes, this state of affairs has had a catastrophic effect on the dried grape processing sector. Failure to market and process last year's production means that one thousand million drachmas worth of income has not been realized and thousands of workers in dried grape processing plants in the agricultural districts of Greece have remained without employment.

In view of the fact that, unless the Community takes prompt action, the same conditions are expected to prevail this year too in the dried grape sector, what measures does the Commission intend taking to put an end to these negative consequences of its non-integrated intervention in the Greek dried grape sector?