

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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ORAL QUESTION (O-68/81)

with debate, pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI, Mr BONACCINI, Mr CERAVOLO, Mrs CINCIARI RODANO and Mr LEONARDI

to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Price control in the Community countries

The price increases which have taken place to a varying extent in all the Community countries, with serious repercussions on family budgets and the people's standard of living, call for soundly based, effective and long-term measures.

- Given that broad strata of the public are no longer able to cope with a continual increase in prices, in particular those of essential goods;
- whereas in each case price control should be understood above all as a means of monitoring the operation of the market and the efficiency of production;

- whereas, according to an enquiry carried out by Eurobarometer the people of Europe had been expecting that the common market would in particular be able to prevent price increases;
- having regard, moreover, to the considerable differences in prices as between Member States, these amounting to in some cases 40% for the same goods;

would the Commission indicate:

1. the measures adopted in the Member States which have proved most effective in controlling prices;
2. the mechanisms through which price control is being carried out in the various States;
3. the Commission's intentions as regards action to ensure the control and transparency of prices, including agricultural prices to the consumer;
4. the measures it intends to take to ensure that price stability is not achieved at the expense of product quality;
5. how the Commission intends to give effect to the European Parliament's wishes regarding prices as expressed in the debate on the second action programme for consumers?