

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTION without debate

pursuant to Rule 46 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mr MARTENS

to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: support measures for greenhouse cultivation

The increase in the price of oil products is having such a serious effect on the economic feasibility of greenhouse cultivation that several Member States have already taken measures to support undertakings of this kind.

The measures taken consist of either direct grants or financial support for the conversion to cheaper energy sources.

It is reported that:

France is to set aside 22.5 million French francs for the cultivation of flowers and 25 million francs for the cultivation of vegetables;

In Germany the Federal Government has made available 23 million DM quite apart from support given by the Länder;

The Netherlands is to spend

7			million florins on conversion to natural gas
3	"	"	on scientific research in this connection
10	"	"	on payments for the cessation of activities
2	"	"	interest rebates on bridging credits
25	"	"	on outright or repayable bridging credits;

The United Kingdom has spent £7 million;

Italy is to reimburse 20 lire per litre of fuel

The Commission is asked:

1. Whether or not the list of measures given above is accurate;
2. What repercussions these measures are having on the cost price of vegetables, cut flowers and pot plants;
3. Whether or not these measures should be condemned as distortions of competition;
4. Whether it intends to harmonize this support in all Member States, and if so, by taking what measures?