



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 20 October 2010 (21.10)
(OR. en,el)**

15283/10

AGRI 423

NOTE

from:	General Secretariat of the Council
to:	Delegations
Subject:	Cotton bollworm (<i>Helicoverpa armigera</i>) in Greece - Request from the Greek delegation

Delegations will find attached in Annex a document submitted by the Greek delegation to be dealt with under 'Any other business' in the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) at its meeting on 26 October 2010.

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD

Athens, 12 October 2010

NOTE FROM THE GREEK DELEGATION
under "Any other business"
for the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 26 October 2010

Cotton - infestation of cotton bollworm

Cotton is one of the main crops in Greece. It employs over 45 000 agricultural holdings and for many regions it is the only source of agricultural income. It also secures employment and income for other social groups involved in the working, transport and processing of the product.

In the current growing season (2010), there has been a serious problem with a drop in cotton production and a resulting decline in income in many parts of the country following a **cotton bollworm (*Helicoverpa armigera*)** infestation. Huge surges in the population of the insect have been observed and, despite the fact that the farmers scrupulously applied the appropriate pest control methods, it has not been possible to eliminate the problem. Production losses amount to up to 100 %, which has dealt a fatal blow to cotton producers.

The situation is mainly due to the weather conditions during the current growing period, which have been unfavourable for controlling the insect (a mild winter, cool spring, rainfall and increased humidity during the spraying period).

At a time when prices for agricultural products remain low and the cost of production has greatly increased in respect of the means of production and equipment, the cotton bollworm has compounded the disaster for cotton producers, since the cost of production has soared due on the one hand to the need for pesticides, which have so far been used without results, and on the other to the significant drop in production.

To support the affected producers, the Greek authorities propose to grant payments to offset the damages resulting from the loss of production, using the means available in existing legislation. The relevant dossier with the necessary documentation will be submitted to the Commission in the immediate future.

Given the exceptionally unfavourable economic and fiscal situation at this juncture, which has hit farmers especially hard, the European Commission is called upon to exhaust all the room for manoeuvre it has to grant the Greek application as soon as possible.
