

EC quotas may slip on banana skin

Quotas due to come into effect in July will impose import taxes of up to £700 per tonne on bananas from Latin America. Experts fear that 173,000 banana workers could lose their jobs and might be tempted to turn to coca (cocaine) production

How the quotas will be applied

EC total banana imports: 3.6 million tonnes per year

NO IMPORT TAX

Bananas from British, French and Spanish territories and former colonies – currently 1 million tonnes

IMPORT TAX

£83 per tonne for the first 2 million tonnes from other countries in Central and South America

(Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Venezuela)

IMPORT TAX

£700 per tonne above 2 million tonnes

Europe's banana eaters (kg per head per year)

Eastern Germany	25
Western Germany	14
United Kingdom	6
Europe average	10

