

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1980 - 1981

---

26 March 1980

DOCUMENT 1-52/80

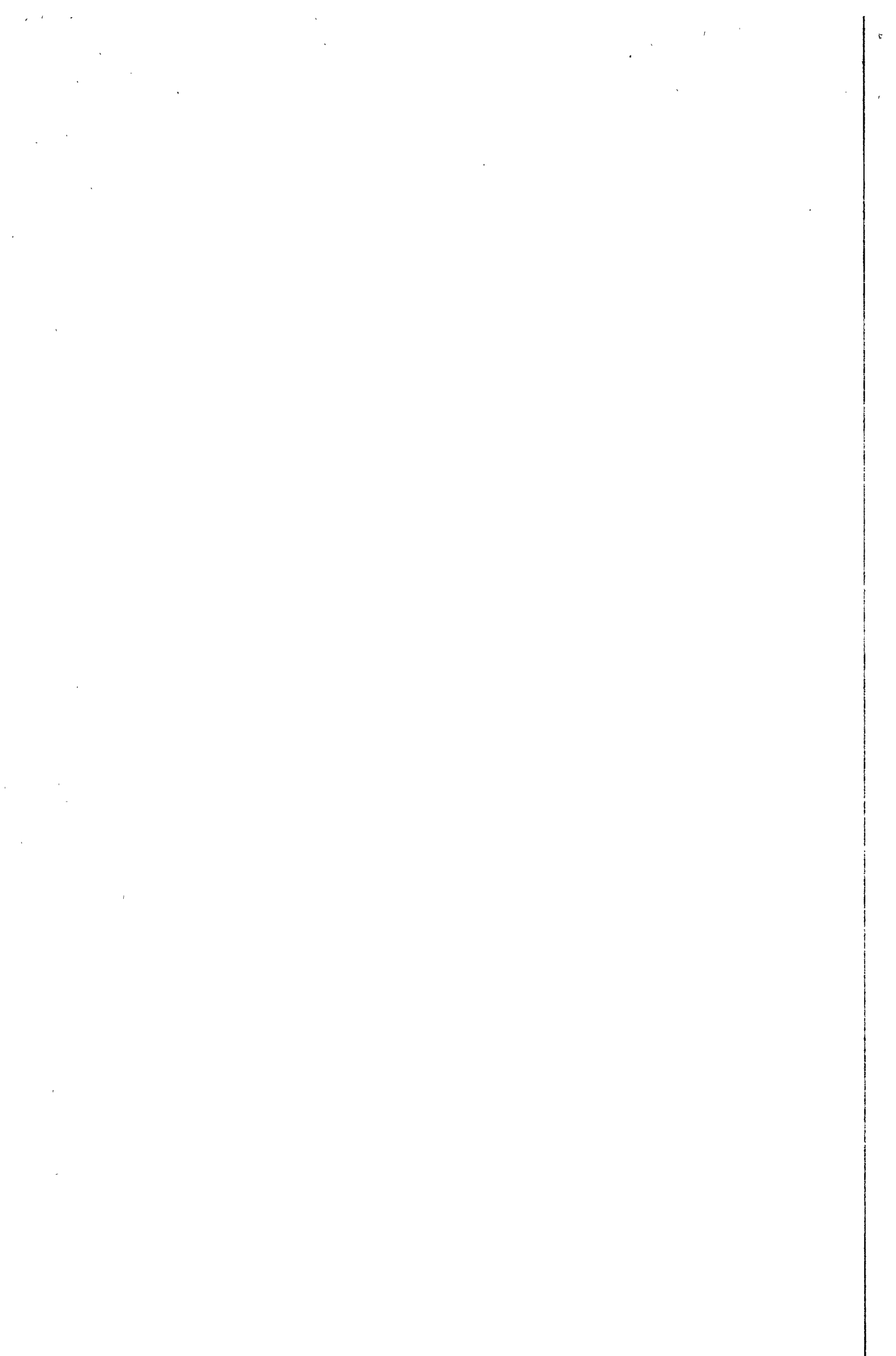
### MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr BUCHOU, Mr DAVERN, Mr de la MALENE,  
Mr ANSQUER, Mr CHIRAC, Mrs CHOURAQUI, Mr CRONIN,  
Mr DEBRE, Mr DELEAU, Mrs DIENESCH, Mr DRUON,  
Mr FLANAGAN, Mr GILLOT, Mr LABBE, Mr LALOR,  
Mr MESSMER, Mr NYBORG, Mr PONCELET, Mr REMILLY,  
Miss de VALERA and Mrs WEISS

on behalf of the Group of European Progressive  
Democrats

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on the improvement and strengthening of the  
common agricultural policy



The European Parliament,

Declares that :

I. Agriculture is one of Europe's rare natural sources of wealth. This resource must be exploited in a resolute manner:

- The European farmer has a right to a decent income. Why should he be the sole category of the population of Europe for whom a lower standard of living and a higher level of debt are considered acceptable? The disparities between the various sectors of activity and the frontiers which have once more risen between farmers in the Community should gradually be abolished.

- The European consumer has a right to security of supplies at stable prices. Why should he become the victim of speculation on prices, or shortages of products, which would undoubtedly become widespread if Europe in the long term became too dependent on the outside world? The oil crisis demonstrates this clearly. And Europe is already a net importer of farm and food products to a value of 30,000 million dollars.

- The European taxpayer has a right to fair treatment. Why should he alone be called upon to finance the agricultural policy; why should the oils and fats consumed in our nine countries, whether animal or vegetable in origin, more than half of which are imported, be taxed only when produced within the Community and free of tax when imported from outside? This situation is quite unfair and cannot be allowed to continue.

- The workers of the Community have a right to a stable social situation. Why should they be threatened by the increase in unemployment which would not fail to ensue if the farming population was obliged to leave the land as a result of a shortsighted agricultural policy? The food industry and industry as a whole need a prosperous agriculture.

- The hungry nations of the world have a right to food aid. Why should they be deprived of it by a policy which penalizes output and progress in farming? Only a serious and well thought-out policy of agricultural exports by the Community directed towards all parts of the world but particularly laying stress on the humanitarian aspect can provide the poor of the world with food aid from our continent.

- The citizens of the nations of the European Community have the right to see progress in building Europe. Why should this be called into question by weakening or destroying the only real Community achievement: the common agricultural policy?

o

o o

In view of the above, we representatives of the Assembly of the European Communities,

- Consider that it is of benefit to all Europeans, not only farmers but also consumers, taxpayers or workers who are out of a job, industrialists and traders, to have a prosperous agriculture capable of meeting the essential needs of our continent and placing a strong emphasis on exports.
- Forward this resolution, for examination, to the Committee on Agriculture of our Assembly, as well as to all the Community Institutions, urging them to reject any proposals to cut production.

II. The common agricultural policy is at present the only properly structured policy which fulfils the three basic principles of any Community production policy: single market and prices, Community preference, financial solidarity.

It also embodies perfectly the two objectives which the Community should pursue: the creation of a true common market in all the Member States and the progressive development of Europe's economic independence.

The supporters of free trade, who are hostile to self-sufficiency and exports of farm products by the Community, are therefore calling into question the very principles and machinery of the common agricultural policy. Can it be that their efforts, which are really rooted in the political desire to break up the common market and turn it into an Atlantic trading area, are now succeeding?

There are indeed many serious causes for concern in the way the common agricultural policy operates.

- Community agriculture is based on increasing imports of energy and raw materials (particularly for animal feeds).
- The continuing existence of monetary compensatory amounts, which were brought into being as a result of economic and monetary distortions which have nothing to do with agriculture, have destroyed the unity of the market and created unequal competition and a source of free income for the countries with positive compensatory amounts.
- Community preference has been made subject to exceptions which some would like to see made permanent, thus destroying the very basis of the common market.

We believe that the common agricultural policy is indispensable now more than ever.

- A strong agriculture is now an important part of Europe's economic power and prosperity. It is a strength, not a burden.

- The social stability of our countries also largely depends on it as does the preservation of balanced family farms.

- The effectiveness of the Community agricultural policy helps to ensure security of food supplies. Consumers and farmers benefit from regular supplies and control of the growth of prices. Becoming dependent on imports would place both at the mercy of external suppliers, particularly the United States.

- Europe should have a production level sufficient to allow it to adopt a generous food aid policy towards the hungry countries of the world which are increasingly numerous and whose needs are growing.

- As a common policy, the CAP has made the Community aware of its own existence and given the governments useful experience of working together. The common agricultural policy is the institutional pillar of the Community. To weaken it would be to call directly into question the progress of independence of the European Community itself.

o  
o o

For these reasons we propose that the achievements of the CAP be protected and that it be strengthened and its operation improved. The further progress of the CAP, and indeed of the Community itself must be based on the implementation of two fundamental political principles :

- First principle: the EEC is a common market and must not become simply a free trade area.

- Second principle: the Community must be independent. It must not accept a subordinate role either politically or economically.

On these two principles we base five proposals :

1. We must produce

Therefore,

- we reject any system of quotas or 'super-levies' which, on fallacious grounds, would take us back to the policies of 30 years ago and would place a restrictive corset of production limitation on European agriculture,

- we express the strongest possible reservations about the principle of co-responsibility whose shortcomings have in practice been

greater than its advantages: it has penalized small producers and regions where economic and social progress are dependent on the development of milk production.

- we ask that all exceptions to the principle of Community preference be abolished.

2. We must produce from the land in the Community

We denounce the situation on the market in fats and oils: the Community imports 56% of the fats and oils it consumes and the fats and proteins imported totally free of duty have artificially created certain surpluses.

We request

- the introduction of a levy on imported fats and oils and a tax on margarine
- the drawing up of an overall common policy on proteins and fats and oils.

This will be a test of political will.

3. We must produce to ensure our supplies

The common agricultural policy must make its aim complete self-sufficiency for the Community in all sectors where our deficit threatens security of supplies: oils and fats as already mentioned and above all beef and veal.

4. We must produce for export

The absence of any real export policy is one of the major shortcomings of the CAP.

The Commission considers exporting as an instrument of market management to be used from time to time; it uses it to dispose of occasional or structural surpluses with no relation to its general policy.

An agriculture based on productivity like the Community's agriculture must find its natural extension in a systematic and permanent export policy.

This policy should be applied on a commercial rather than an administrative basis. It should be based in particular on a body which should be set up to create new outlets for Community products and in particular dairy products.

It should include long-term supply contracts with consumer countries.

It should have an ambitious and generous policy towards the countries suffering from hunger.

5. We must produce in areas where future outlets exist

- Coordinated research should determine exactly what type of investment is likely to have a successful commercial future. The sectors immediately apparent are proteins and fats and oils, beef and dairy products.

- Common policies must be supplemented by further measures - for example for wine - or new policies introduced, for sheepmeat, bananas and alcohol.

- The price structure should be changed to help products whose production is to be encouraged.

o  
o o

The above proposals are guidelines for a medium-term policy. They do not concern immediate problems such as the dismantling of compensatory amounts or the price levels for the next marketing year.

They naturally assume that the Community institutions will operate according to the rules of the Treaties and that these rules will be respected by all Member States and all the Community bodies.

In this connection the strengthening and improvement of the common agricultural policy should not be directed towards some budgetary end nor should it be based on the pretext of the increased budgetary cost of agricultural market support.

The CAP is a common policy, the most highly developed of all. Its objectives and policy are laid down by the Council of Ministers on a proposal from the Commission; it is run by the Commission; it is financed from the Community's own resources and receives the funds needed to implement it properly.

This budget reflects the financial implications of common policies, and in particular of the common agricultural policy which accounts for only 40% of expenditure, if we exclude expenditure not directly chargeable against agriculture. It should not, at the risk of upsetting the whole institutional balance of the Community, be viewed as a legislative

framework for determining common policies.

Thus, in proposing the strengthening and improvement of the common agricultural policy, our aim is to protect the Community's achievements and its ability to make progress: a common market free from the temptations of free trade; an independent and powerful economic area; an institutional system based on free cooperation between responsible governments.

The various positions adopted towards the common agricultural policy demonstrate a fundamental political choice: for or against an organized and independent Europe.

In the position we have constantly adopted, in the proposals we put forward today, we have demonstrated and we will continue to demonstrate that we are the true Europeans.