

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983-1984

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DOCUMENT 1-185/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr COTTRELL

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the crisis in the British pigmeat industry

The European Parliament,

- A. observing with deep concern the distortive effects of the growing accumulation of grain held in intervention stores within the Community,
- B. considering that this policy is leading to divisive trends in Community agriculture, namely a considerable benefit to grain producers but a consequent disadvantage to the pigmeat and poultry sectors faced with ever increasing feed prices,
 - 1. Observes that this is nowhere more serious than in the United Kingdom - where some pigmeat producers report annual losses now in excess of £12,000 per annum;
 - 2. Notes that while intervention grain is being disposed of at subsidised prices to markets such as Spain for example, while at the same time feed compounders have just raised prices by £5 per tonne;
 - 3. Seriously questions the wisdom of perpetuating a policy in which a record grain harvest such as that grown in 1982 brings no benefit to sectors of agriculture such as pigmeat and poultry - sectors in which the producers are contemplating bankruptcy while grain producers are constantly encouraged by an over-generous intervention regime;
 - 4. Reminds those remaining enthusiasts for the common agricultural policy that it is supposed to be based on 'Community preference;'

THEREFORE

- 5. Requests the Commission to invoke the genuine spirit of 'Community preference' by making intervention grain available to the UK pigmeat and poultry sectors at prices similar to those prevailing on the Spanish export trade;
- 6. Further demands that the Commission make an urgent study of the worsening distortions in grain production policy with a view to making recommendations for change to the Parliament;
- 7. Further instructs the Commission to prepare future price reviews for agriculture on the basis of seeking genuine balance in the industry, particularly between the grain production and consumption sectors.