

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983-1984

October 1983

DOCUMENT 1-809/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr John PURVIS

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on financial assistance for conversion to less intensive
agricultural methods and alternative activities

PE 86.869

The European Parliament ,

- A - concerned at the effect which constraint on farm product prices would have on those many farmers with heavy debts requiring service and therefore bound in to high input cost forms of agriculture for cash flow reasons,
 - B - aware that chronic surpluses in certain products can only be rectified by permitting a proportion of such producers, especially, but not only, in more marginal areas, to transfer to other products and less intensive methods of agriculture,
 - C - concerned at the detrimental effects on the environment of encouraging more and more intensive forms of agriculture,
 - D - concerned at the high energy consumption of intensive agriculture in terms of fertilisers, fuel and machinery,
 - E - recalling its previous resolutions regarding marginal and sub-marginal agricultural areas that the objective of Community policy should be the maintenance of population and social infrastructure by way of diversifying and stabilising the economy in non-agriculture enterprises as well as appropriate forms of agriculture,
 - F - convinced that the urgent need for such farmers is to obtain capital sufficient to permit the transition from their presently barely profitable method of farming to other methods or, indeed, completely different enterprises,
- 1) Calls on the Commission to introduce a scheme of substantial compensation payments to farmers who elect to reduce the percentage of their holdings committed to cereal production to be payable over an extended period (say 5 years);
 - 2) Asks the Commission to realign agricultural policy onto low input cost, low energy dependence, less intensive and more profitable forms of agriculture;
 - 3) Calls on the Commission to review the scale of its ability to support activities which could provide income and employment in the rural areas (eg. sport and recreation, game farming, fish farming, tourism, crafts, processing of local and regional food products, light industries, service industries) as an alternative and ancillary activity to traditional farming;
 - 4) Calls on member states to review urgently their systems of capital and capital gains taxation which inhibit the realisation of capital by farmers for application in other methods and enterprises.