

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr Neil T. BLANEY

pursuant to Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure

on Common Agricultural Policy, as a stake
in the big debate

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,

- recalling the Articles of the Rome Treaty concerning the establishment of a Common Agricultural Policy,
- recalling too the commitments to improving living conditions, and to reducing the differences between regions and the backwardness of the less favoured regions,
- recognising the achievement that the common agricultural policy represented, and its role in cementing unity between the member countries,
- noting nevertheless that the gaps between regions continue to increase, and that the living and working conditions of a growing number of small farmers, and their real incomes, have been declining,
- noting the steady exodus from the land, the reluctance of young people to stay in farming, the ageing of the farming population, and observing that these phenomena contribute to the overall economic and social and cultural decline of the outlying agricultural regions,
- convinced that in the elaboration and application of the common agricultural policy insufficient regard has been and is being had to its impact on the overall situation of the regions,
- noting that the particular machinery of price support which is built into the common agricultural policy,
 - (a) generates surpluses by offering a guaranteed market at a set price for unlimited quantities, irrespective of production costs, the scale of the undertaking or the quantities it produces;
 - (b) constitutes a financial burden on the Community's financial resources which causes a dangerous disequilibrium in the pattern of spending;
 - (c) nevertheless fails to offer to the smaller farmers a reasonable income, or a guarantee against inflation, with the result that real incomes are falling;
- anxious to contribute to the elaboration of changes in the Common Agricultural Policy which will relieve the pressure that is driving small farmers from the land, and result in a positive rather than a negative impact on the less favoured regions, ensure adequate food supplies, but stabilize the Common Agricultural Policy burden on the Community budget whilst not jeopardising the basic unity of the agricultural market and its function as a unifying factor,

RECOMMENDS to the Commission of the European Communities to examine, to discuss with the Parliament, and to submit to the Council, proposals for the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy based on the following essential elements:

- (i) the introduction of a two- or multi-tier system of price support, a basic price being guaranteed for all that a farm produces up to a given level, and a lower price for amounts over and above that level;
- (ii) recognition that it is a function and a priority of Community agricultural as well as regional policy to encourage and enable small farmers to continue in farming;
- (iii) recognition that the overall economic, social and cultural situation of the less favoured regions is a matter of Community concern, and that farming has a key role to play in this connection.