
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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Motion for a resolution

tabled by Mr FELLERMAIER and Mr PISANI
on behalf of the Socialist Group

with request for debate by urgent procedure pursuant to Rule 14 of the
Rules of Procedure

on the/review of the common agricultural policy

021.

JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUEST FOR DEBATE BY URGENT PROCEDURE

The authors of the motion for a resolution consider a debate by urgent procedure to be justified by the fact that a review of the agricultural policy is long overdue and has become all the more essential since the entry into force of the European Monetary System. Moreover, unless the urgent procedure is approved, the European Parliament will not be able to deliver an opinion on the proposals contained in the resolution until after the recess, i.e. nearly half a year after its submission.

The European Parliament,

- considering the essential functions which devolve upon agriculture in the field of economics, ecology and regional development and the Community responsibilities as laid down in the Treaties,
- considering
 - that the common agricultural policy has played a decisive role in the construction of the Community,
 - that this policy has enabled Community agriculture to increase its productive capacities in such a way that it can safeguard supplies to the continent of Europe,
 - that it has made it possible to eliminate the fluctuations in food prices which are intolerable to both producers and consumers,
- considering, however,
 - that the various regions of the Community, the various types of holding and the various agricultural products have not benefited equally from the common agricultural policy,
 - that this policy has failed adequately to foster an economically responsible attitude towards production,
 - that structural surpluses exist for products which cannot be sold through the normal channels,
 - that the financial burden of these surpluses so encumbers the Community's agricultural budget as to make it very difficult, if not impossible to finance an agricultural policy for the guidance of production and the structuring of farms, although such a policy is crucial,
 - that the Community budget allocates a very high percentage of its resources to agricultural policy at the risk of endangering the balanced construction of the Community and the credibility of the agricultural policy,
- considering
 - that the common agricultural policy suffers from the fact that it is virtually the only genuine Community policy,
 - the monetary disturbances which have caused serious imbalances in this policy,
 - the powerlessness of the Council of Ministers, which has prevented it from developing in such a way as to take into account international developments and the realities of Community agriculture.

- considering also
 - the problems to which the possible enlargement of the Community is likely to give rise for those products and regions which hitherto have been least well protected by the common agricultural policy,
 - the commitments into which the Community has entered or intends to enter vis-à-vis the ACP and Mediterranean countries,
 - world food prospects and the positive contribution the Community must make to combat hunger and to establish a new international economic order,
- considering, in brief, that, unless it is adjusted suitably, the common agricultural policy, which has made a decisive contribution to the construction of the Community, risks endangering the unity and credibility of the Community,
 1. Confirms its belief in the fundamental principles of the common agricultural policy as laid down on 14 February 1962: a single market and Community preferences and solidarity;
 2. Also confirms that the common agricultural policy must safeguard supplies, protect the consumer, respect or restore the great national balances and enable the various agricultural producers, all other things being equal, to attain a standard of living and working comparable to that of the other socio-occupational groups;
 3. Considers that if the common agricultural policy is to achieve these aims and comply with these principles, a complete reexamination of that policy will be necessary, going far beyond the current discussions on budget and prices;
 4. Calls in this context for the organization, with all the necessary care, of a 'quadripartite conference on agricultural and rural prospects and policy' in which the national authorities, the Commission, the farmers and qualified representatives of third-party interests (consumers, upstream and downstream industries, international trade experts, environmental experts, development cooperation experts) will work together to determine
 - the guidelines of an overall common agricultural policy, redefining its practical aspects to take account of the new internal and external requirements,
 - the procedures which will ensure that this policy is adjusted to future Community developments (economic, social and regional) and future international developments;

5. Requests that, before the Council of Ministers takes a decision, the elected Parliament should be enabled to express its opinion on the outcome of this conference;
6. Warns the Council and the Commission of the risks to the Community of continuing a practice which no longer satisfactorily ensures a single market, equal opportunities for producers, products and regions, the satisfactory development of production on the basis of demand, the adjustment of structures to new situations, the responsible organization of producers, a fair distribution of the charges and profits of the common agricultural policy, a fair balance between the various aspects of the agricultural policy or a fair balance between the various desirable Community policies - a practice which, moreover, risks complicating the enlargement of the Community, its relations with the ACP countries and its position in international negotiations;
7. Declares, in brief, that only if it is redefined will the common agricultural policy manage to regain the decisive role it once played in the construction of the Community and the satisfactory development of its agriculture;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

