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Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 358/76) for a regulation regarding the ~~the~~ deadline for the submission of applications for grants from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, Guidance Section, for the year 1977

Rapporteur: Mr A. LIOGIER

1.21

PE 46.456/fin.

By letter of 11 October 1976, the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation regarding the deadline for the submission of applications for grants from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, Guidance Section, for the year 1977.

By letter of 21 October 1976, the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture as the committee responsible.

The Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Liogier rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 4 and 5 November 1976 and unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution.

Present: Mr Houdet, chairman; Mr Laban, vice-chairman, Mr Liogier, vice-chairman and rapporteur; Mr Brégégère, Mr Frehsee, Mr Früh, Mr Gerlach (deputizing for Mr Hansen), Mr Haase, Mr Hughes, Mr McDonald, Mr Martens, Mr Ney, Mr Pisoni, Mr Pistillo, Lord St. Oswald, Mr Scott-Hopkins and Mr Vitale.

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The Committee on Agriculture hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation regarding the deadline for the submission of applications for grants from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, Guidance Section, for the year 1977

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council¹,
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 358/76),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc.417/76);

1. Approves the Commission's proposal,
2. Requests the Commission nevertheless to put an end at an early date to the practice of deferring the deadline for the submission of applications for grants from the Fund or for notifying the Commission's decision to the Member State concerned and the beneficiaries, in order to prevent further damage to the latter's interests arising from the current delay in granting the aids intended to promote the attainment of the objectives laid down in Article 11 of Regulation No. 17/64/EEC;
3. Therefore hopes that, as from next year, the dates laid down in Article 20(1), first subparagraph, of Regulation No. 17/64/EEC may be respected both as regards the notification of the parties concerned of the Commission's decision on applications for grants from the Fund submitted for the year 1977 and as regards the submission of applications for grants from the Fund for the year 1978.

¹ OJ C 243, 15.10.1976 p.2

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. The object of the present proposal for a regulation is to defer to 15 December 1976 the deadline laid down in Article 20(1), first subparagraph, first sentence, of Regulation No. 17/64/EEC¹ for the submission of applications for grants from the EAGGF, Guidance Section, for the year 1977.

According to Article 20(1), first subparagraph, of Regulation No.17/64/EEC, 'applications for grants from the Fund shall be submitted to the Commission each year by 1 October' and 'the Commission shall take a basic decision by 31 December the following year'.

2. According to the Commission this proposal for a regulation will help its departments to catch up on dealing with applications for grants from the Fund. Your rapporteur welcomes the Commission's action in this area, since it accords with the recommendation made by the European Parliament last year (see Doc. 436/75).

3. The Committee on Agriculture therefore welcomes the Commission's efforts to speed up the consideration of applications and recognizes that part of the backlog, which amounted to twelve months in 1972, is being disposed of.

4. Thus, Regulation No. 3309/75/EEC² deferred

- to 30 April 1976 (instead of 31 December 1975) the deadline for notifying the Member State concerned and the beneficiaries of the Commission's decision on applications for grants from the Fund for the year 1975, this representing a delay of 4 months;

- to 1 April 1976 (instead of 1 October 1975) the deadline for the submission of applications for grants from the Fund for the year 1976, this representing a delay of 6 months.

5. The present proposal, by deferring to 15 December 1976 (instead of 1 October 1976) the deadline for the submission of applications for grants from the Fund for the year 1977, reduces the delay to 2½ months. It thus represents the substantial progress in comparison with the provisions of Regulation No. 3309/75/EEC.

¹ OJ No. 34, 27.2.1964 p. 586/64 (not available in English)

² OJ No. L 328, 20.12.1975 p.10.

6. The Committee on Agriculture therefore, whilst it hopes that the practice of previous years of deferring the deadlines for the submission of applications for grants from the Fund and for notification of the Commission's decision will be discontinued at any early date, having regard to the harm suffered by the parties concerned as a result of the delay in granting the aids intended to promote the attainment of the objectives laid down in Article 11 of Regulation No. 17/64/EEC, recommends the European Parliament to deliver a favourable opinion on the proposal for a regulation submitted to it.

