Procedure file

Basic information

INI - Own-initiative procedure	2001/2041(INI)	Procedure completed
Rural development in the framework of Agenda 2000: interim assessment in the Union and the candidate countries Subject 8.20.12 Enlargement's agricultural point of view 8.20.26 Enlargement's regional point of view		

Key players

European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development		27/02/2001
		PSE RODRÍGUEZ RAMOS María Soraya	

Key events

03/05/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
13/05/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
13/05/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0164/2002	
29/05/2002	Debate in Parliament		
30/05/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0275/2002	Summary
30/05/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
07/08/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/2041(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AGRI/5/14636

Documentation gateway					
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES0362/2002 OJ C 125 27.05.2002, p. 0087	20/03/2002	ESC	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0164/2002	13/05/2002	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0275/2002 OJ C 187 07.08.2003, p. 0024-0168 E	30/05/2002	EP	Summary

Rural development in the framework of Agenda 2000: interim assessment in the Union and the candidate countries

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by María RODRÍGUEZ RAMOS (PES, E) on the interim assessment, in the framework of Agenda 2000, of rural development in the EU and the applicant countries. It was dissatisfied with the inadequate amount of funding - currently less than 10% of the CAP budget - so far allocated to rural development, despite the creation of the second pillar within the CAP at the Berlin Summit, and called for urgent reassessment. The report also complained that the rural development measures currently in force were applied unevenly in the different Member States, a situation likely to be exacerbated with enlargement. There was also a need for greater coordination between EAGGF rural development programmes and actions carried out under the Structural Funds. A new typology of rural areas should be defined on the basis of objective socio-economic, environmental and climate-related criteria, with a view to establishing priority measures for each region. The committee stressed that the second pillar of the CAP must guarantee sustainable rural development and the maintenance of multifunctional family-based agriculture throughout the territory of the enlarged Union. Rural development policy should therefore be geared towards combating depopulation by helping to preserve essential public services and social facilities in rural areas and providing extra support to enable smallholdings to stay in business. Consideration should be given to increasing direct income support while ensuring that this created minimum distortion of competition. Measures to encourage young people to go into farming were also a key priority. Other recommendations made in the report included a call for the European Parliament to be allocated full codecision powers for the agricultural sector ahead of enlargement, and for the rules, procedures and financing relating to second-pillar rural development measures to be simplified. While warning against the renationalisation of the CAP, the report called for more compulsory co-financing by the Member States of measures taken under the CAP. Lastly, the committee advised against linking the mid-term review of Agenda 2000 with the enlargement negotiations.?

Rural development in the framework of Agenda 2000: interim assessment in the Union and the candidate countries

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on an own-initiative report by Maria RODRIGUEZ RAMOS (PES, Spain) on rural development in the framework of Agenda 2000. (Please refer to the document dated 13/05/02.) Parliament stated that coherence must be ensured between the first and second pillars of the CAP, through complementarity between the two. Multifunctional and competitive agriculture must be preserved, which means that environmental measures and measures relating to food safety and quality must be strengthened. The Commission needs to pursue an integrated approach and to consider policy on rural areas in all its aspects in order to take due account of the principle of multifunctionality. In future, greater emphasis needs to be placed on the second pillar of the CAP. Parliament called for compulsory and gradually increasing modulation within the first pillar with the intention of reducing disparities in area payments between regions in the EU and thus creating an aid system which distorts competition less. It can also be defended in future trade negotiations as a necessary instrument to support the European model of agriculture. The money saved from the first pillar could be used for rural development all over the EU. Measures aimed at young people entering the industry and holdings wishing to invest should be given support over and above that provided for in Regulation 1259/1999, as is the case for early retirement measures, measures for disadvantaged areas and areas subject to environmental constraints, and agri-environmental and afforestation measures. The Commission needs to extend eco-conditionality measures in favour of sustainable development. Parliament went on to draw attention to the fact that making direct income support part of rural policy would place it in the WTO Green Box. Therefore, the Commission should consider such a possibility with a view to devising a support scheme which creates as little distortion to competition as possible and which helps to maintain a viable, sustainable rural environment.?