


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2003/2048(INI)	Procedure completed
Multifunctionality and reform of the common agricultural policy CAP		
Subject 3.10 Agricultural policy and economies		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	PSE RODRÍGUEZ RAMOS Maria Soraya	27/11/2002

Key events			
12/02/2003	Non-legislative basic document published	B5-0019/2003	
15/05/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/05/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
20/05/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0189/2003	
03/06/2003	Debate in Parliament		
05/06/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0263/2003	Summary
05/06/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		
18/03/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2003/2048(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AGRI/5/19509

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		B5-0019/2003	12/02/2003	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0189/2003	20/05/2003	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0263/2003 OJ C 068 18.03.2004, p. 0333-0585 E	05/06/2003	EP	Summary

Multifunctionality and reform of the common agricultural policy CAP

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by María RODRÍGUEZ RAMOS (PES, E) on "multifunctionality" and CAP reform. The report regretted that CAP reform measures were not related to the CAP as a whole, but were instead too focused on the field of rural development. It also rejected the budget cuts introduced on a regressive basis whose main purpose was to finance future sectoral reforms, the cost, objectives, nature and practicalities of which were not yet known. The committee also considered that markets policy and rural-development policy should be made complementary by means of measures designed to redirect production towards sustainable, high-quality development. It stressed that most second-pillar measures (food-safety policy, quality policy, environmentally sound agricultural practices, young farmers, etc.) should be incorporated into the markets policy, so that a common agricultural and rural policy could be devised. MEPs also called on Parliament to commission a study setting out the technical aspects of CAP reform, in particular, the run-up to the 2006 financial debate. The Commission was urged to commit itself to the firm defence of all aspects of a multifunctional agriculture based on the European agricultural model. The aim, according to the committee, should be to avoid distortions of competition in the negotiations in the WTO relating to the agricultural chapter. Finally, the committee proposed that the codecision procedure should be applied to all legislative acts in the field of agriculture, with a view to improving the EU's democratic legitimacy and its decision-making procedure. ?

Multifunctionality and reform of the common agricultural policy CAP

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Maria RODRIGUEZ RAMOS (PES, Spain). (Please see the summary of 20/05/03). Parliament rejected the proposal for the total uncoupling of direct aid based on the past production levels of individual farms, since such a measure would perpetuate the existing imbalances and prompt the abandonment of production in the most marginal areas. In principle, it welcomed the proposals on conditionality of direct aid, as an instrument that may serve to consolidate both the joint production aspect of agricultural activity and the social legitimacy of the CAP. Parliament felt, however, that the Commission's proposals needed to be revised with a view to ensuring their practical and uniform implementation throughout the EU so as to avoid distortions of competition. Furthermore, permanent compensation is required to offset the resulting cost disadvantages for European agriculture. Parliament went on to state that a priority objective is the need for agricultural production to continue in those rural areas in which it is essential to the preservation of nature. The greater costs associated with environmentally sound cultivation techniques would justify the provision of appropriate environmental compensation. Modulation should incorporate the granting of various exemptions, so as to ensure that cuts in aid do not threaten the viability of many farms. The conditionality criteria should include the 'territorial' (as opposed to the strictly 'commercial') character of a given farm. These 'territorial' farms must be exempted from modulation and regressivity. Another priority of CAP reform is measures designed to assist young farmers who are already set up in business. The Commission is asked to deal specifically with the problem of the handover from one farming generation to the next. Finally, Parliament asked the Commission to provide extra funding for the Community's Leader + programme, which has produced significant results in terms of the multifunctional development of Community farms by successfully integrating them into other sectors such as tourism, the agri-food business, traditional crafts and biodiversity protection. ?