


Procedure file

| Basic information | |
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| COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) | 1994/2086(COS) |
| European apiculture. Discussion paper | Procedure completed |
| Subject | |
| 3.10.04 Livestock farming | |

| Key players | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|------------|
| European Parliament | Committee responsible | Rapporteur | Appointed |
| | AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development | PPE LULLING Astrid | 08/09/1994 |
| | Committee for opinion | Rapporteur for opinion | Appointed |
| | REGI Regional Policy | The committee decided not to give an opinion. | |
| | ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection | GUE GONZÁLEZ ÁLVAREZ Laura | 14/09/1994 |
| Council of the European Union | | | |

| Key events | | | |
|------------|--|---|---------|
| 24/06/1994 | Non-legislative basic document published | COM(1994)0256 | Summary |
| 14/09/1994 | Committee referral announced in Parliament | | |
| 19/12/1994 | Vote in committee | | Summary |
| 19/12/1994 | Committee report tabled for plenary | A4-0116/1994 | |
| 20/01/1995 | Debate in Parliament |  | Summary |
| 20/01/1995 | Decision by Parliament | T4-0030/1995 | Summary |
| 20/01/1995 | End of procedure in Parliament | | |
| 20/02/1995 | Final act published in Official Journal | | |

| Technical information | |
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| Procedure reference | 1994/2086(COS) |
| Procedure type | COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) |
| Procedure subtype | Commission strategy paper |

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| Legal basis | Rules of Procedure EP 142 |
| Stage reached in procedure | Procedure completed |
| Committee dossier | AGRI/3/05644 |

Documentation gateway

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|---|--|------------|----|---------|
| Non-legislative basic document | COM(1994)0256 | 24/06/1994 | EC | Summary |
| Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading | A4-0116/1994 OJ C 043 20.02.1995, p. 0004 | 19/12/1994 | EP | |
| Text adopted by Parliament, single reading | T4-0030/1995 OJ C 043 20.02.1995, p. 0120-0130 | 20/01/1995 | EP | Summary |

European apiculture. Discussion paper

In this discussion paper, which starts by describing the situation of beekeepers in Europe (production, trade, consumption, market access, support measures, difficulties and demands of the industry), the Commission concludes that, with the current state of the sector throughout the European Union and current know-how on beekeeping, there is no need for a new organization of the market specifically for honey. Nor is it possible to invent a global support system such as general income support. However, apart from taking recourse to structural instruments, a set of measures could be proposed to improve the production and marketing of honey in the medium term under a framework Council regulation making provision for: - production conditions to be improved: the purpose of this measure would be to cofinance national programmes through organizations of producers in order to improve the sector by coordinating the fight against varroa mite and associated diseases, rationalizing migratory beekeeping and networking regional beekeeping centres and research institutes in order to improve the quality of honey and the genetics of bees; - studies, to be carried out by the Member States, on the structure of the sector (production and marketing census, price-formation). In addition to this programme, the Commission will design measures to enable the industry to implement a quality policy, mainly by: - defining quality specifications for different honeys based on their botanic or geographical origin; - designing harmonized analyses for checking these specifications.?

European apiculture. Discussion paper

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development adopted the draft report unanimously. The report mainly highlighted the difficult economic situation of beekeepers in Europe and called for immediate action to support beekeeping, ideally within the framework of a common organisation of the honey market, with simple administrative arrangements. The report also called on the Commission to propose a priority action programme to improve production, processing and marketing conditions in this sector, to carry out a study in the Member States of the structure of apiculture and to take steps to implement a quality policy. It also called on the Council to approve the introduction of a Community pollination premium for every beehive, payable to both commercial and part-time beekeepers, on ecological and socio-economic grounds, together with financial compensation for loss of income because there is no Community preference in this sector.?

European apiculture. Discussion paper

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the situation of beekeeping in the Community, calling once again for immediate action to support European beekeeping, ideally within the framework of a common organisation of the honey market with the simplest possible administrative arrangements. The European Parliament called on the Commission to go straight ahead and present proposals on: - an action programme to improve honey production, processing and marketing conditions; - a study of the structure of apiculture in the Member States; - steps to implement a quality policy, although it did point out that these measures would be unable to rectify the situation of apiculture in the EU. It also called on the Council to approve the introduction of a Community pollination premium for every beehive, payable to both commercial and part-time beekeepers, on ecological and socio-economic grounds. This premium should at least cover the costs of winter feeding on the basis of pre-established zones at Union level. It also called for financial compensation for income lost as the result of the absence of Community preference. Similarly, it called for imported honey to meet hygiene and quality standards. At the same time, Parliament called on the Commission to submit an action programme to combat bee diseases (varroa mite disease).?

European apiculture. Discussion paper

In her report on the situation of beekeeping in Europe the rapporteur, Mrs Lulling (EPP, L), called for immediate action to support beekeeping, ideally within the framework of a common organisation of the market (COM) in honey. Although not necessarily in favour of the creation of a COM in honey, Commissioner Pádraig Flynn stated that the Commission accepted the recommendations contained in this report. He recognised the need to support Community producers given that 50% of the Union's honey requirements were currently met by imports. He was also in favour of establishing measures to improve marketing and research, combat bee diseases and ensure better checks of the quality of imported honey. As regards labelling, reference to a product's origin should be compulsory in the near future.

