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*Plenary sitting*

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**B8-1148/2016**

4.10.2016

# **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

pursuant to Rule 133 of the Rules of Procedure

on farmers being forced to abandon their farms before retirement age

**Sophie Montel, Florian Philippot**

**Motion for a European Parliament resolution on farmers being forced to abandon their farms before retirement age**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 133 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas, according to a study by the French Interministerial Payment Services Agency (ASP), 10 000 farmers a year are choosing to leave their profession before retirement age, which is 30% of those who leave the profession each year;
- B. whereas the reasons given are difficulties with bank financing and reimbursement, a lack of cash and geographic isolation;
- C. whereas policies pursued by the EU over many years have been partly responsible for this isolation (by promoting intensity, particularly of machinery, and indirectly imposing reductions in the territorial reach of public services);
- D. whereas within the space of 30 years the amount of agricultural land in France has dropped by 7%, particularly in the south, where arable land has declined by 17%;
- 1. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to promote a strengthening of the territorial coverage of public services in order to avoid rural deserts;
- 2. Calls for the granting of bank loans to be facilitated by means of a public guarantee.