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*Committee on Budgets*

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**2009/2236(INI)**

25.3.2010

# **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

The future of the CAP after 2013  
(2009/2236(INI))

Rapporteur: Giovanni La Via

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union renders the multiannual financial framework (MFF) a legally binding act with which the annual budget has to comply,
- B. whereas, with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the European Parliament has gained the power to shape the Union's agricultural policy, not only as regards multiannual agricultural programmes but also by amending the annual budget for agriculture,
- C. whereas the new CAP will have to face new and demanding challenges with a view not merely to meeting the food consumption needs of European citizens with adequate quality products and supporting the income of the agricultural sector but also preserving the environment and responding to climate change,
- D. whereas the current small margins available under Heading 2 make it very difficult for the Union to respond appropriately to unexpected political events and may deprive the annual budgetary procedure of its substance,
  1. Recalls that the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union stipulates that a unanimously adopted Council regulation shall in future lay down a multiannual financial framework and that that it shall determine the amounts of the annual ceilings by category of expenditure;
  2. Emphasises that the legally binding nature of the MFF necessitates the introduction of more flexible implementing arrangements so that the Union can respond sufficiently flexibly and effectively to unforeseen events;
  3. Draws attention to the fact that in order to avoid inevitable disparities between Member States it is necessary to maintain a CAP financed entirely from the European budget;
  4. Recalls that over the last four years of the current MFF, it was only possible to agree the annual budgets either by using up the existing margins or through recourse to revision and reprogramming, reducing the ceilings of Heading 2 in order to finance other EU priorities;
  5. Stresses the need, given the new Common Agricultural Policy objectives, to provide adequate funding in the new MFF, in order to be able to better support the policy;
  6. Draws attention to the fact that the rule stipulating that the Commission may no longer amend its draft budget once the Conciliation Committee has been convened will preclude the use of the traditional autumn letter of amendment to take account of the updated forecasts for agricultural policy and their budgetary implications; takes the view that, if

these circumstances arise, the most appropriate procedure would involve the submission by the Commission – if necessary – of a specific draft amending budget once all the agricultural data have been finalised;

7. Recalls that Pilot Projects (PP) and Preparatory Actions (PA) introduced by the European Parliament have evolved into important tools for the formulation of political priorities and the introduction of new initiatives that often turned into EU activities and programmes, including in the field of agriculture and rural development; notes, however, that the abolition of categories of expenditure implies that the Council will probably be in a position to put forward proposals for PP & PA and to request the inclusion of the traditional 'compromise package' on PP & PA in the overall negotiations on the 2011 Budget during conciliation.