



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Regional Development

2010/0266(COD)

10.2.2011

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)
(COM(2010)0537 – C7-0295/2010 – 2010/0266(COD))

Rapporteur: Iosif Matula

PA_Legam

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Treaty makes a distinction between the powers delegated to the Commission in adopting and non-legislative acts of general application to supplement or amend some less essential elements of the legislative act and the Commission powers to adopt uniform conditions for implementing the acts legally binding Union.

The legislator give the Commission the task to add additional items necessary for the proper functioning of the regime proposed by the legislator. In order to ensure a uniform application of the regime in the Member States, the legislator has granted Commission implementing powers.

The rapporteur considers the present text amending Regulation 1659/2005 adequately achieves its purpose. Nevertheless, he has put forward three amendments stressing the necessity to reinforce governance in this area by insisting the full participation of local and regional representatives and stakeholders in all decisions to be taken.

In particular the rapporteur considers that a fine balance between environmental needs and economic needs must be finally tuned.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Regional Development calls on the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation – amending act Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) The use of advisory services should help farmers to assess the performance of their agricultural holding and identify necessary improvements with regard to the statutory management requirements and the good agricultural and environmental condition as provided for in Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 of 19 January 2009 establishing common rules for direct support schemes for farmers under the common agricultural policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers and the Community standards relating to occupational safety. Taking into

Amendment

(13) The use of advisory services should help farmers to assess the performance of their agricultural holding and identify necessary improvements with regard to the statutory management requirements and the good agricultural and environmental condition as provided for in Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 of 19 January 2009 establishing common rules for direct support schemes for farmers under the common agricultural policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers and the Community standards relating to occupational safety. Taking into

account that the support for the use of advisory services has been available already for several years, a more tailor-made use should be facilitated, to better reflect the individual needs of the beneficiary.

account that the support for the use of advisory services has been available already for several years, a more tailor-made use should be facilitated, to better reflect the individual needs of the beneficiary. ***Member States should be encouraged to create platforms for e-counselling for farmers by using broadband. The use of all counselling services provided by regional and local authorities promoting the use of information technology by farmers should also be encouraged.***

Or. en

Justification

The e-counseling instrument provides a unique opportunity for Member States to communicate with farmers in remote areas. Farmers having better access to Internet services, like broadband internet, is a prerequisite for economic development.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation – amending act Recital 17

Text proposed by the Commission

(17) Article 10 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, requires Member States, with a view to improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network, to endeavour to encourage the management of features, which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function as stepping stones, are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species. Such areas should be made eligible for Natura 2000 payments. However, in order to ensure that payments continue to be primarily used for the designated Natura 2000 sites, it is appropriate to limit their proportion compared to Natura 2000 areas designated.

Amendment

(17) Article 10 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, requires Member States, with a view to improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network, to endeavour to encourage the management of features, which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function as stepping stones, are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species. Such areas should be made eligible for Natura 2000 payments. However, in order to ensure that payments continue to be primarily used for the designated Natura 2000 sites, it is appropriate to limit their proportion compared to Natura 2000 areas designated.

In so doing, regional and local authorities should establish a balance between environmental provisions and local development needs.

Or. en

Justification

In order to avoid disharmony between environmental provisions and local development, a compromise must be struck so that concerns for both economic investment and environmental protection are addressed.

Amendment 3

**Proposal for a regulation – amending act
Recital 19**

Text proposed by the Commission

(19) Each Member State is required to establish a national rural network. In order to ensure that the various national rural networks are set-up in a coherent and uniform manner, the Commission should, by means of implementing acts, fix details concerning the establishment and the operation of those networks.

Amendment

(19) Each Member State is required to establish a national rural network ***which should include national, regional and local representatives***. In order to ensure that the various national rural networks are set-up in a coherent and uniform manner, the Commission should, by means of implementing acts, fix details concerning the establishment and the operation of those networks.

Or. en

Justification

It is important that not only the relationship between each Member State and national rural network be established but that each national rural network be comprised of national, regional and local representatives to ensure close links with citizens' needs.