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ERRATUM

to the report on the

proposal for a Council regulation fixing the premiums and guarantee thresholds for leaf tobacco by variety group and Member State for the 2002, 2003 and 2004 harvests and amending Regulation (EEC) No 2075/92
(COM(2001) 684 – C5-0678/2001 – 2001/0276(CNS))

Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

Rapporteur: Arlindo Cunha
A5-0065/2002

Amendment 15 to read as follows:

Amendment 15
ARTICLE 3, POINT 3
Article 13, paragraphs 2 b and 2 c (new) (Regulation (EEC) No 2075/92)

2b. The measures referred to in paragraph 2 may be implemented at national level by distributing the amounts available among the States beforehand. The aim of these measures will be to accompany and develop the greatest possible number of synergies with the quota buy-back programme. With the sole aim of facilitating the achievement of this objective, Member States may make provision for the partial buy-back of quotas by growers, subject to the prior submission and approval of a conversion programme.

2c. If the amounts made available for each of these areas are under-utilised, the Commission shall redistribute the

***amounts among the others, provided that
there are projects eligible for subsidy.***

Justification

At present Regulation (EEC) No 2075/92 only envisages full quota buy-back, which entails the definitive abandonment of the crop. For this reason many growers are not taking advantage of the current conversion measures, because they fear a complete change of activity for which, moreover, at least to date, there have not been sufficient accompanying measures. In this context, the possibility of partial quota buy-back might facilitate the gradual conversion of tobacco holdings whilst ensuring the success of the new Fund, since it would minimise the risks and uncertainty inherent in a complete change of activity.

(Concerns all languages)