

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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2009

Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

2005/2029(INI)

15.3.2005

OPINION

of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the application by the Republic of Bulgaria to become a member of the
European Union
(2005/2029(INI))

Draftsman: Albert Jan Maat

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Takes note of the Commission's estimations of the costs of Bulgarian accession in the field of agriculture;
2. Underlines the political and economic importance of Bulgaria's accession to the European Union and the mutual effort required in this respect; stresses, however, the difficulty for the European Parliament to vote on an Accession Treaty with Bulgaria and the therein agreed costs of enlargement without an agreement on the way in which these costs are to be incorporated within the Financial Framework 2007-2013; points, in this context, to the need to take full account of the cost of funding the implementation of the CAP in Bulgaria and to set the levels of the relevant appropriations accordingly in the 2007-2013 financial perspective;
3. Welcomes the progress made by Bulgaria to bring the country's agricultural policy in line with current Community law; stresses, however, the importance of completing the preparation required for implementation of the Community *acquis*, which calls not only for the creation of the necessary control and paying agencies but also for the staffing of those agencies with appropriately trained personnel;
4. Points out to the Commission and the Bulgarian authorities that there should be further improvement in information and the participation of the population in rural development projects; calls for more funding for rural development measures based on the Leader method; views the use of the Leader method as a way of using funds efficiently to promote rural development with the involvement of civil society and the use of existing economic structures;
5. Urges the Bulgarian authorities, in regard to the use of genetically modified varieties, to adopt unequivocal and prudent provisions in relation to coexistence so that they do not, upon accession, circumvent the relevant Community provisions on the release of GMOs into the environment;
6. Welcomes the fulfilment of the land restitution process, but underlines the remaining problem of land fragmentation, which adversely affects the competitiveness of Bulgarian agriculture; stresses the need to achieve the maximum possible effectiveness of the SAPARD programme in order to improve the country's agricultural structures;
7. Regrets that the setting up of the Agricultural Land Information System (ALIS), scheduled in 2005, has been postponed to 2006;
8. Considers that good progress has been made on the implementation of the *acquis* in the veterinary sector, but that enforcement remains more critical; urges the Bulgarian

authorities to set up a functioning system for the identification and the registration of livestock and for monitoring their movements;

9. Stresses that Community provisions on food hygiene should only serve to protect consumers and ensure food quality and should not be misused as a pretext for structural concentration in the processing industry; calls, therefore, on the Bulgarian Government to use pre-accession aid for rural development to promote decentralised production of quality foods and their regional marketing;
10. Is concerned that rules on animal welfare, particularly for animal transport or for slaughterhouses, still do not meet EU standards;
11. Underlines the importance of sufficient numbers and adequate equipment of border control posts for veterinary or phytosanitary checks;
12. Welcomes the fact that the Bulgarian authorities have started to set up the necessary structures for the common organisation of the markets, but urges the country to intensify its efforts as regards the establishment of the milk quota system and the vineyard register; also stresses the importance of immediate preparation for the implementation of Community legislation concerning milk quotas so as not to create problems in terms of distortion of competition and the operation of the milk quota scheme in the other Member States; stresses the importance of bringing legislation on environmental policy and organic farming into line with the Community *acquis*.

PROCEDURE

Title	Application by the Republic of Bulgaria to become a member of the European Union
Procedure number	2005/2029(INI)
Committee responsible	AFET
Committee asked for its opinion Date announced in plenary	AGRI
Enhanced cooperation	-
Draftsman Date appointed	Albert Jan Maat 20.1.2005
Discussed in committee	3.2.2005 14.3.2005
Date suggestions adopted	14.3.2005
Result of final vote	for: 20 against: - abstentions: -
Members present for the final vote	Joseph Daul, Friedrich-Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf, Albert Jan Maat, Filip Adwent, Katerina Batzeli, Niels Busk, Albert Deß, Ioannis Gklavakis, Elisabeth Jeggle, Stéphane Le Foll, Mairead McGuinness, Neil Parish, María Isabel Salinas García, Csaba Sándor Tabajdi, Marc Tarabella, Jeffrey Titford, Witold Tomczak, Kyösti Tapio Virrankoski
Substitutes present for the final vote	Milan Horáček, Wiesław Stefan Kuc
Substitutes under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	-