



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

2009/2002(BUD)

30.9.2009

OPINION

of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2010,
Section III - Commission
(C7-0127/2009 - 2009/2002(BUD))

Rapporteur: Elisabeth Jeggle

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Notes with great concern that agriculture in the European Union has been one of the sectors most severely affected by the economic and financial crisis; calls on the Commission to immediately implement measures to alleviate the situation and to put forward a clear, long-term strategy for a sustainable and competitive Common Agricultural Policy (CAP);
2. Recalls that the primary goal of the CAP is to guarantee market stabilisation, provide security and ensure reasonable prices for consumers and producers, and therefore calls on the Commission to provide in the 2010 budget for the necessary means to address the new needs arising from the current economic crisis;
3. Does not consider that the Preliminary Draft Budget adequately reflects the particular needs arising from the worsening conditions on agricultural markets and expects this to be rectified in the Commission's Letter of Amendment in the autumn;
4. Expresses its concern about the situation in the dairy market and the strong decline in producer prices; urges the Commission to put in place the emergency measures needed to alleviate the current decline in producer prices; supports the increases in budgetary terms provided for in the dairy sector (export refunds, intervention, private storage), but insists that more funding be put in place to support struggling dairy farmers;
5. Repeats its demand, made in the 2009 budget procedure, for the creation of a dairy restructuring fund of EUR 600 million to support farming investment, modernisation, diversification or area-based measures and to provide support for marketing activities and accurate nutritional information for dairy products;
6. Calls for the creation of a price and margin observational tool for gathering information about the farmers' price-share along the food retail chain to ensure that prices paid by consumers are in line with the prices paid to farmers;
7. Reminds the Commission of the study on margins for the various links in the food production chain, which, on the initiative of Parliament, was launched within the framework of the budget for 2009; strongly emphasises that Parliament expects to see results of this study by the end of the year;
8. Urges the Commission to put forward a proposal for an early retirement scheme with harmonised standards, in particular for the dairy sector, in order to avoid market distortions;
9. Stresses the need for an expansion of, and increased financial resources for, programmes that can boost the consumption of dairy products, such as the School Milk scheme; considers that the reintroduction of skimmed-milk powder for animal feed could be an

effective way of balancing the market; calls, further, for the extension of the programme of butter for pastry and ice cream;

10. Calls for increased appropriations for the School Fruit scheme and for the accelerated implementation of this programme;
11. Expresses its great concern at the overall level of the margin available for 2010, which is significantly smaller than in 2009, with only EUR 1.109 million for 2010, compared to EUR 3.517 million in 2009; considers the level of the expected margin to be very limited already and that it should not be reduced, as further market interventions throughout the budget year could trigger the application of budgetary discipline;
12. Stresses that the margin for agricultural expenditure should be used stringently and only for purposes in the agricultural sector;
13. Stresses that the financing of the European Economic Recovery Plan (EERP) envisaged for 2010 is not yet included in the Preliminary Draft Budget 2010, thus the current margin is going to be further reduced by EUR 420 million;
14. Recalls that Parliament increased the budgetary line for rural development by EUR 249.840 million in the 2009 budgetary procedure, and that this amount was made available for activities financed under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development in the EERP; considers that this would have eased the problem of financing the EUR 2 400 million needed for the EERP in 2010;
15. Urges the Council and Commission to increase the budget for young farmers as this group is facing considerable new challenges (e.g. combating climate change and maintaining food production in the European Union), for instance by increasing the funds available for education, training networks and exchange programmes for young farmers or by strengthening the policy tools for young farmers in the Rural Development programme;
16. Supports the Commission's and the European Food Safety Authority's recent undertakings in relation to identifying the causes for an alarming decline in bee numbers (colony collapse disorder) and stresses the importance of increasing appropriations to improve the production and marketing of honey in order to help tackle this problem, which is crucial to maintaining sufficient pollination in the Union; reiterates its calls for the costs of combating bee diseases to be assumed within the framework of veterinary policy;
17. Stresses the need to ensure that the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development is represented by the appropriate committee members in the conciliation committee meetings; stresses also the need to ensure coordination between the Committee on Budgets and specialised committees on budgetary aspects of their legislative activities given their impact on the multiannual financial framework and the annual budgetary procedure.

PROCEDURAL PAGE

Date de l'adoption	30.9.2009
Résultat du vote final	+ : 40 - : - 0 : 1
Membres présents au moment du vote final	John Stuart Agnew, Richard Ashworth, Christophe Béchu, José Bové, Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos, Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă, Michel Dantin, Paolo De Castro, Albert Deß, Herbert Dorfmann, Hynek Fajmon, Lorenzo Fontana, Martin Häusling, Esther Herranz García, Peter Jahr, Elisabeth Jeggle, Elisabeth Köstinger, Giovanni La Via, Stéphane Le Foll, George Lyon, Gabriel Mato Adrover, Krisztina Morvai, Mariya Nedelcheva, James Nicholson, Rareş-Lucian Niculescu, Wojciech Michał Olejniczak, Marit Paulsen, Alfreds Rubiks, Giancarlo Scotta', Czesław Adam Siekierski, Marc Tarabella
Suppléant(s) présent(s) au moment du vote final	Luis Paulo Alves, Salvatore Caronna, Ricardo Cortés Lastra, Jean-Paul Gauzès, Vincenzo Iovine, Alan Kelly, Véronique Mathieu, Christel Schaldemose, Brian Simpson, Milan Zver
Suppléant(s) (art. 187, par. 2) présent(s) au moment du vote final	Theodoros Skylakakis