



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Budgets

2010/0256(COD)

12.9.2011

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down specific measures for agriculture in the outermost regions of the Union
(COM(2010)0498 – C7-0284/2010 – 2010/0256(COD))

Rapporteur: Giovanni La Via

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SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The specific measures for agriculture in the outermost regions of the Union (POSEI) intend to remedy the difficulties caused by their remoteness, insularity, small size, topography and specific climate, which give rise to various socio-economic difficulties, especially related to the competitiveness of agriculture and their industrial processing sector.

The present opinion seeks to support and reinforce the objectives of the POSEI programme. In particular, it suggests that a slight increase of the financing of the measures is necessary, in order to address properly the difficulties caused by their specific situation, deteriorated due to the current economic and financial crisis, and to the increasing pressure the targeted sectors are under. In particular, this increase would serve to ensure that these regions can continue to implement appropriate measures for the promotion of sustainable development, the protection and sustainable use of agriculture and its resources. It need to be taken into account that the unemployment rates of this regions doubles that of the EU, as well as that of the Member States they belong to. In addition, due to their specificities and their vulnerability, their economic recovery requires strengthened and longer term attention.

The European Commission and the Court of Auditors in its report on functioning of POSEI 2010, underline the usefulness of this scheme to overcome the difficulties imposed on these regions. However, the resources allocated to these programmes (EUR 653 million for the nine regions) are insufficient, as certified by the fact that agriculture is in a phase of decline and on a national scale certain decisions have been taken to support the POSEI programmes with state aid. The structural problems and increasing pressure from competition from imports from third countries are linked to the bad evolution of many sectors.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Budgets 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 Recital 34 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(34a) Funding for the banana sector should be increased in the context of specific measures to assist remote and island regions (POSEI) in order to mitigate the negative effects on the incomes of Union producers income of

the forthcoming reduction in customs duties on imports of bananas into the Union. There is, therefore, an ongoing need to assess the impact of tariff concessions granted by the Union in order to determine whether a review of the aid granted to Union producers is necessary.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation Recital 34 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

34b. The Commission should submit a report to Parliament and the Council assessing the impact that any new tariff concessions in respect of imports of bananas into the European Union will have on producers' incomes. That report should be accompanied, where necessary, by a legislative proposal concerning the adjustment of the sums laid down in this Regulation with the aim of offsetting the losses of income suffered by European producers.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation Recital 36

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(36) Since 2006, requirements in essential products have increased in some outermost regions, particularly in the Azores and in the French overseas departments, as a result of the increasing livestock population and demographic pressure. The proportion of the budget which Member States may use for the specific supply arrangements for the regions concerned

(36) Since 2006, requirements in essential products have increased in some outermost regions, particularly in the Azores and in the French overseas departments, as a result of the increasing livestock population and demographic pressure. The ***annual budgetary allocation for the POSEI programmes and the*** proportion of the budget which Member States may use for the specific supply arrangements for the

should therefore be increased.

regions concerned should therefore be increased.

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation Recital 36 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

36a. Once the territory of Mayotte has acquired outermost region status, the Commission should put forward a new proposal that seeks to increase proportionally the budget earmarked for the overseas departments, that takes account of Mayotte's new status, and that incorporates specific provisions concerning Mayotte.

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation Article 21 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. Notwithstanding Article 39(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005, the maximum annual amounts eligible for European Union aid, as set out in Annex I to that Regulation, may be increased up to twofold in the case of the measure to protect lakes in the Azores and the measure to preserve the landscape and traditional features of agricultural land and the conservation of stone walls ***supporting terraces in Madeira.***

1. Notwithstanding Article 39(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005, the maximum annual amounts eligible for European Union aid, as set out in Annex I to that Regulation, may be increased up to twofold in the case of the measure to protect lakes in the Azores and the measure to preserve the landscape and traditional features of agricultural land and the conservation of stone walls ***in the outermost regions.***

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation

Article 29 - point 2 - right column - line 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

EUR 278,41 million

EUR 308,21 million

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation

Article 29 - point 2 - right column - line 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

EUR 106,21 million

EUR 117,61 million

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation

Article 29 - point 2 - right column - line 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

EUR 268,42 million

EUR 297,12 million

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation

Article 29 - point 3 - right column - line 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

EUR 24,8 million

EUR 26,9 million

PROCEDURE

Title	Specific measures for agriculture in the outermost regions of the Union
References	COM(2010)0498 – C7-0284/2010 – 2010/0256(COD)

Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	AGRI 7.10.2010
Committee(s) asked for opinion(s) Date announced in plenary	BUDG 7.10.2010
Rapporteur(s) Date appointed	Giovanni La Via 4.10.2010
Date adopted	8.9.2011
Result of final vote	+: 20 -: 5 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Damien Abad, Alexander Alvaro, Marta Andreasen, Francesca Balzani, Reimer Böge, Andrea Cozzolino, Jean-Luc Dehaene, Göran Färm, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazábal Rubial, Jens Geier, Estelle Grelier, Jutta Haug, Anne E. Jensen, Alain Lamassoure, Giovanni La Via, Claudio Morganti, Nadezhda Neynsky, Helga Trüpel, Angelika Werthmann, Jacek Włosowicz
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Maria Da Graça Carvalho, Jan Mulder, Peter Šťastný, Georgios Stavrakakis