

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0843/03
by Jean-Claude Fruteau (PSE)
to the Council

Subject: Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy

The principle of a single farm payment subject to compliance with environmental, food safety, animal welfare, health and occupational safety standards as well as the requirement to keep all farmland in good condition seems to meet society's expectations.

However, there are possible concerns that the principle of cross compliance, which makes eligibility for the single payment dependent on the fulfilment of these requirements, will create some problems for farms in the ultra-peripheral regions. These regions have their own climatic constraints, which are unknown on the European continent.

On the basis of Article 299(2) of the Treaty of Amsterdam, what measures does the Council intend to take to find an appropriate response to this particular situation?