

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2155/04  
by Henrik Kristensen (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Reform of the EU's agricultural aid schemes

Following the reform of EU agricultural aid, it is possible for farmers to receive aid based on their production of calves for 2000-2002, despite having retired. Is this an intentional or unintentional consequence of the reform?

Do farmers' descendants inherit the right to receive aid based on the production of calves for 2000-2002? If so, on what conditions?

In order to receive aid, a farmer must own land. Does a farmer also acquire the right to receive aid even if the land is rented out?

Can the Commission say to what extent there are legal obstacles to amending the rules governing agricultural aid so that retired farmers and their heirs are not entitled to receive aid? Does the individual farmer acquire a prescriptive entitlement to the aid? What legal conditions must be met in order to amend the rules on aid?

Can the Commission say what practical and technical obstacles are associated with amending the aid schemes so that retired farmers and their heirs are not entitled to agricultural aid?

Does the Commission consider that giving aid to retired farmers is a reasonable way of spending EU funds?