Question for written answer E-6057/2010 to the Council Rule 117 Christophe Béchu (PPE)

Subject: Europeans and agriculture

In 2006, the Commission's DG Agriculture sought to analyse European public opinion on farming and the CAP in the light of recent developments.

The Eurobarometer poll in question revealed that 88% of Europeans support and recognise the importance of their agriculture, even though a majority of them have never heard of the Common Agricultural Policy. Of the 43% who had heard of it, 37% did not know exactly what it was.

Thanks to its traditions, France is the country where the CAP is best known, with 64% of those questioned having heard of it and 19% knowing exactly what it is.

Generally speaking the people polled wished to receive more information on the CAP, particularly on food safety and health (50%) the environment (30%) and animal welfare (25%).

Although the CAP represents a significant proportion of the Community budget and is thus one of Europe's greatest achievements, how does the Council propose to fill the gap in people's knowledge of their agricultural policy?

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