

ORAL QUESTION H-0480/03
for Question Time at the part-session in September I 2003
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure
by María Rodríguez Ramos
to the Commission

Subject: Reclassification of rural areas in the EU

In the light of the conclusions of the Court of Auditors' special report No 4/2003 and the critical remarks contained therein regarding the effectiveness of the support measures for less-favoured areas under the various rural development programmes, it is clear that the reform of the CAP will have the effect of increasing the risks of cessation of farming and depopulation in those areas of the Union.

Does the Commission intend to undertake a reclassification of rural areas, on the basis of objective criteria relating to the environment, employment and rurality, as called for by Parliament in its reports A5-0164/2002 on rural development in the framework of Agenda 2000 and A5-0189/2003 on multifunctional agriculture and the reform of the CAP?

Tabled: 10.07.2003
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