

ORAL QUESTION H-0954/06

for Question Time at the part-session in November 2006

pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure

by Luís Queiró

to the Commission

Subject: Community financing of agri-environmental measures

Given that the environmental dimension of European agriculture and the contribution it makes to supporting rural development are highly important, and since agri-environmental measures have a special role to play in promoting sound environmental practices and rural development, will the Commission explain what value it considers agri-environmental measures to have as a means of promoting sound environmental agricultural practices and as regards rural development?

To what extent does the failure to use the Community funding available for such measures compromise the achievement of the objectives pursued through environmental and rural-development policies? What measures are planned at Community level in order to deal with the discrepancy between the estimates submitted by the Member States and the actual level of implementation? Does the Commission find the discrepancy disturbing? To what extent may a Member States and/or its farmers be adversely affected by the discrepancy? What Commission initiatives/measures are there to prevent the non-payment of agri-environmental measures drawn up and budgeted at Community level? What amount of the Community budget for agri-environmental measures was set aside for, made available to but unused by Portugal in 2004 and 2005? What is the EU average for non-implementation of the agri-environmental measures budget in those years?

Tabled: 25.10.2006

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