

ORAL QUESTION H-0759/08
for Question Time at the part-session in October 2008
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Zbigniew Krzysztof Kuźmiuk
to the Commission

Subject: Equalising of payments per hectare in the old and new Member States

Annex 8 to the proposal for a Council Regulation establishing common rules for direct support schemes for farmers under the common agricultural policy of 20 May 2008 lays down ceilings for financial resources under the common agricultural policy in the individual Member States up to 2013 and beyond. Converting the amounts set out in this Annex to hectares of agricultural land used reveals huge differentiation in support per hectare among the individual Member States. The approximate figures are € 489 in Belgium, € 388 in Denmark, € 344 in Germany, € 263 in France and € 237 in the UK. In the new Member States, however, support levels are considerably lower: € 213 in the Czech Republic, € 227 in Hungary, € 200 in Slovakia and just € 187 in Poland.

At a time when production costs in the new and old Member States are very quickly converging and the Commission is proposing decoupling financial support from production, there is no substantive justification in maintaining such differentiation, which is viewed as blatant discrimination against farmers in the new Member States. Maintaining such differentiation in support levels over many years amounts in principle to the existence of two common agricultural policies.

What action does the Commission intend to take in order to eliminate this disproportion?

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