

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on International Trade

2005/0119(CNS)

24.11.2005

OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

on the proposal for a Council regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003 establishing common rules for direct support schemes under the common agricultural policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers
(COM(2005)0263 – C6-0244/2005 – 2005/0119(CNS))

Draftsperson: Béla Glattfelder

PA_Leg

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The draftsperson welcomes the Commission's proposal to introduce partial income support measures for sugar beet growers to offset some of their losses stemming from the gradual reduction of market support. The draftsperson seeks to amend this proposal by making provisions for the "fullest possible compensation" of sugar beet and chicory growers.

The **national ceilings** (reference amounts) provided by the Commission under Annex VII, point K, for the calculation of income support for sugar beet and chicory growers do not need to be changed. With the draftsperson's proposed 25 % reduction in the minimum price for sugar beet, as opposed to the 42.6 % cut proposed by the Commission, sugar beet growers' expected revenue loss would also fall proportionately. Under such a modest price reduction scenario, the reference amounts for income support would cover some 90 % of sugar beet growers' revenue loss—as opposed to only 60 % under the Commission's radical price reduction scenario.

However, in some Member States, adjustment to the reduced prices for sugar beet may cause considerable problems for farmers. It is therefore necessary to allow Member States to compensate sugar beet and chicory growers as flexibly as possible. One such means would be to allow the payment to beet and chicory growers of **three years' compensation** in a single marketing year.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on International Trade calls on the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Text proposed by the Commission¹

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 1 Recital 2

(2) As a consequence of reduced market support in the sugar sector, income support measures for sugar beet growers should be introduced. *That measure should* take the form of a payment to sugar beet and chicory growers the overall level of which should develop in parallel with the gradual reduction of market supports.

(2) As a consequence of reduced market support in the sugar sector, income support measures for sugar beet growers should be introduced. *Such measures should provide for the fullest possible compensation for revenue losses stemming from the reduction in market support and* take the form of a payment to sugar beet and chicory growers the overall level of which should

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

develop in parallel with the gradual reduction of market supports.

Justification

It is absolutely essential that sugar beet and chicory growers are compensated as fully as possible for the revenue loss they suffer as a result of the reduction of the minimum price for sugar beet.

Amendment 2

ARTICLE 1, POINT 5

Article 110p, paragraph 1 a (new) (Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003)

1a. Member States shall have the option of making, in the marketing year in which this Regulation comes into force, a total sugar payment to sugar beet and chicory growers equivalent to three marketing years.

Justification

Flexibility in compensation should allow Member States to mitigate the negative effects of adjustment to lower sugar beet prices.

PROCEDURE

Title	Proposal for a Council regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003 establishing common rules for direct support schemes under the common agricultural policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers
References	(COM(2005)0263 – C6-0244/2005 – 2005/0119(CNS))
Committee responsible	AGRI
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	INTA 6.9.2005
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	No
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Béla Glattfelder 12.7.2005
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	29.8.2005 12.9.2005
Date adopted	24.11.2005
Result of final vote	+: 20 –: 5 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Jean-Pierre Audy, Enrique Barón Crespo, Daniel Caspary, Giulietto Chiesa, Christofer Fjellner, Glyn Ford, Béla Glattfelder, Jacky Henin, Caroline Lucas, Erika Mann, Helmuth Markov, David Martin, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Georgios Papastamkos, Bogusław Rogalski, Tokia Saïfi, Peter Šťastný, Zbigniew Zaleski
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Panagiotis Beglitis, Danutė Budreikaitė, Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Albert Deß, Elisa Ferreira, István Szent-Iványi
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Paul Rübig
Comments (available in one language only)	...