ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0047/07
pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure
to the Commission

Subject: Implementation of the cross-compliance system in the new Member States

One of the key elements of the reform of the common agriculture policy (CAP) in 2003 was the introduction of cross-compliance. This system means that farmers, in running their agricultural activities, will have to pay greater attention to certain rules relating to the environment, animal and plant health, animal welfare standards and good agricultural and environmental conditions. If an administrative check uncovers that a farmer has not fulfilled the specified requirements, he faces partial or full reduction of his direct aid payments.

In the new Member States the introduction of cross-compliance will entail huge administrative and control costs. The decreased level of direct payments applied in the new Member States should obviously be taken into account when setting deadlines for implementing the cross-compliance regime. Full application of the cross-compliance provisions before the volume of direct payments reaches the EU-15 level would result in further and even more deeply unequal conditions for the new Member States’ farmers with respect to the administrative constraints imposed upon them and the level of compensation received.

In the discussions on the European Commission’s report on cross-compliance implementation, the new Member States concerned expressed clearly and by common accord their proposal concerning gradual implementation of the system.

In the light of the above arguments, will the Commission consider the possibility of introducing the cross-compliance system gradually in the new Member States, over a 6-year period starting in 2009 (and in 2012 in the case of Bulgaria and Romania)?

Tabled: 18.07.2007
Forwarded: 20.07.2007
Deadline for reply: 27.07.2007