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*Committee on Regional Development*

**2005/0129(CNS)**

24.1.2006

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

on the proposal for a Council decision on Community strategic guidelines for Rural Development (Programming period 2007-2013)  
(COM(2005)0304– C6-0000/0000 – 2005/0129(CNS))

Draftswoman: Elspeth Attwooll

PA\_Leg

## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

Whilst there is much to be welcomed in the Strategic Guidelines, it is felt that certain problems arise from the manner in which they are framed.

First, there is no statement of an overall objective in terms of which the synergies between measures taken under each of the axes can be measured.

Second, there is a degree of overlap both within and between the detailed guidelines under several of the axes. This creates potential difficulties for Member States in determining under which of the axes parts of their programmes should fall. There is also an occasional lack of clarity as to what exactly is being encouraged or, at least, permitted.

Third, the main priority stated under each axis does not always fully reflect the thrust of the Council Regulation.

In addition, some clarification seems to be needed as to whose activities the axes are directed, particularly because of the funding proportions allocated under the Regulation to each of them.

In this context, it is taken by the draftsman that:

- a) axis 1 is intended to relate principally to those involved in primary production in the agricultural and forestry sectors, with the purpose of promoting both on farm and in forest diversification and involvement in activities that will create efficiencies in or add value to the primary production;
- b) axis 2 is intended to cover all actors, including those concerned in primary production, involved with the provision of environmental goods, such as the promotion of biodiversity, increasing sustainability, preservation of the natural landscape and cultural heritage;
- c) axis 3 is intended to assist rural communities more generally and in two related respects:
  - first, in their economic development by the promotion of business activities appropriate to the rural economy, in the main other than by primary producers, such as secondary production, support services for primary production, the development of tourism, craft and other enterprises;
  - second, in the improvement of local amenities with the purpose of achieving a good quality of life and averting depopulation.

In both cases, there is emphasis on the potential of women and young people as economic actors.

d) axis 4, following on the former Leader programme, is intended to bring together partnerships of those covered by each of the other axes with a view to the establishment of a coherent overall development strategy aligned to local conditions.

On this understanding and in light of the problems identified above, various amendments are being suggested.

Under axis 1, it is felt that more emphasis should be put in the main guideline on stimulating innovation and integration in the food chain, that reference to the fuel chain should be added and that the reference to investment in physical and human capital should be seen as supportive of innovative and integrative activities. The amended version seems better to reflect the more detailed guidance that follows. There are also some suggested alterations, particularly under indents 2 and 5, intended to offer better illustration of the kind of actions envisaged.

With axis 2, it is felt that, under the main guideline, the reference to "high nature value farming and forestry systems" is confusing as it could be taken to mean naturally engendered economic value. This cannot be correct in the context of the fact that the Regulation deals with areas with natural handicaps under this axis. The amendment to the guideline is intended to make it clear that the emphasis is on environmental goods, including the promotion of biodiversity and sustainability and the preservation of the natural and cultural landscape. Some minor changes have been suggested to existing indents and a new one referring to the cultural and natural heritage introduced.

The proposed guideline under axis 3 refers to "the overarching priority of creating employment opportunities". This does not seem to reflect the content of the Regulation, which also places stress on the quality of life, and appears to miss the point that economic development is a primary driver in the creation of employment opportunities. The suggested redrafting is intended to provide a better reflection of what appears to be envisaged under the Regulation. Some clarifications have also been made to the indents, including one to direct it more closely to the role and needs of women in rural economies, including the issue (identified in the European Parliament's Resolution of 3 July 2003 (P5\_TA(2003)0432) on women in rural areas of the European Union) of the amount of unpaid work undertaken, resulting in lack of provision for their later years.

Little change is suggested in relation to axis 4, except that it is felt that the use of the word "endogenous", as it appears in the English version at least, makes the point less plainly than desirable and rewording is recommended.

In the guideline concerned with translating priorities into programmes, it is felt that the opportunity should be taken both to introduce a reference to spatial planning and to the involvement of stakeholders under Article 6 of the Regulation. Similarly, under the guideline concerning complementarity between Community Instruments, it seems appropriate both to include TEN-T and Life+ and to acknowledge that, in some member states, the complementarity between different funds will need to be addressed at regional as well as national level.

## **AMENDMENTS**

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

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Text proposed by the Commission<sup>1 2</sup>

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Amendments by Parliament

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Amendment 1

Annex, paragraph 2.1, subparagraph 2

Without the two pillars of the CAP, market policy and rural development, many rural areas of Europe would face increasing economic, social and environmental problems. The European Model of Agriculture reflects the multifunctional role farming plays in the richness and diversity of landscapes, food products and cultural and natural heritage.

Without the two pillars of the CAP, market policy and rural development, many rural areas of Europe would face increasing economic, social and environmental problems. The European Model of Agriculture reflects the multifunctional role farming plays in the richness and diversity of landscapes, food products and cultural and natural heritage ***and is therefore adapted to new societal demands for quality products, food security, green tourism, enhancing the natural heritage and alternative energies.***

Amendment 2

Annex, paragraph 2.2

The 2003 and 2004 CAP reforms represent a major step forward to improve the competitiveness and sustainable development of farming activity in the EU and set the framework for future reforms. Successive reforms have boosted the competitiveness of European agriculture by reducing price support guarantees. The introduction of decoupled direct payments encourages farmers to respond to market signals generated by consumer demand rather than by quantity related policy incentives. The inclusion of environment, food safety, animal health and welfare

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C ... /Not yet published in OJ.

<sup>2</sup> For reasons of clarity, the original Commission text has been presented in clear formatting i.e. without bold italics, in order to highlight the changes made by the amendments. The original format will be reapplied in the final version. This affects amendments number: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14.

standards in cross-compliance reinforces consumer confidence and increases the environmental sustainability of farming.

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*Justification*

*The CAP reforms should not only boost the European competitiveness as a whole but especially strengthen the regional and local competitiveness and should redress the balance between less developed and more developed regions in the EU.*

Amendment 3

Annex, paragraph 2.4, subparagraph 1

Rural areas are characterised by a very large diversity of situations, ranging from remote rural areas suffering from depopulation and decline to peri-urban areas under increasing pressure from urban centres.

Rural areas are characterised by a very large diversity of situations, ranging from remote rural areas suffering from depopulation and decline to peri-urban areas under increasing pressure from urban centres ***and outermost regions subject to specific permanent constraints stemming from the fact that they are small, they are remote from the European mainland and they are widely dispersed.***

*Justification*

*This is pursuant to Article 299(2) of the EC Treaty and is in accordance with the relaunch of the Lisbon Strategy.*

Amendment 4

Annex, paragraph 2.4, subparagraph 1

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Rural areas are characterised by a very large diversity of situations, ranging from remote rural areas suffering from depopulation and decline to peri-urban areas under increasing pressure from urban centres, ***which requires differentiated rural development strategies.***

Amendment 5

Annex, paragraph 2.4, subparagraph 2

According to the OECD definition, which is based on population density, rural regions represent in the EU-25 92% of the territory. Furthermore, 19% of the population live in

According to the OECD definition, which is based on population density, rural regions represent in the EU-25 92% of the territory. Furthermore, 19% of the population live in

predominantly rural regions and 37% live in significantly rural regions. These regions generate 45% of Gross Value Added (GVA) in the EU-25 and provide 53% of the employment, but tend to lag as regards a number of socio-economic indicators, including Structural Indicators, compared to non-rural areas. In rural areas, income per inhabitant is around a third less, activity rates for women are lower, the service sector is less developed, higher education levels are generally lower, and a lower percentage of households has access to 'broadband' internet. Remoteness and peripherality are major problems in some rural regions. These disadvantages tend to be even more significant in predominantly rural regions, ***although the general picture at EU level can vary substantially between Member States***. Lack of opportunities, contacts and training infrastructure are a particular problem for women and young people in remote rural areas.

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#### *Justification*

*This is pursuant to Article 299(2) of the EC Treaty and is in accordance with the relaunch of the Lisbon Strategy.*

#### Amendment 6

Annex, paragraph 2.4, subparagraph 6 a (new)

***It is also necessary to highlight the importance of craft trades in rural areas. Craft trades are found in all sectors of activity: construction, the food industry, transport and textiles. They help to create jobs, train young people through apprenticeships, pass on traditional knowledge and foster social relationships in the most remote areas.***

#### Amendment 7

Annex, paragraph 3.1, Guideline, paragraph 1

Europe's agriculture, forestry and its agrifood sector have great potential to further develop high quality and value added products that meet the diverse and growing

Europe's agriculture, forestry and its agrifood sector have great potential to further develop high quality and value added products that meet the diverse and growing

demand of Europe's consumers and world markets.

demand of Europe's consumers and world markets, ***including consumers strong interest in better traceability of products from farm to market.***

#### *Justification*

*Because of the many recent food scandals such as the BSE and the foot-and-mouth disease of sheep, which have seriously undermined consumers confidence in the CAP, resources devoted to axis 1 of the Community strategic guidelines for Rural Development 2007-2013 should also contribute to address consumers concerns about the quality of food produced and put on the market in EU Member States.*

#### Amendment 8

Annex, section 3.1, Guideline, paragraph 2

The resources devoted to axis 1 should contribute to ***a strong and dynamic European agrifood sector*** by focusing on the priorities of ***knowledge transfer and innovation in the food chain and priority sectors*** for investment in physical and human capital.

***The resources devoted to axis 1 should contribute to strong, dynamic and sustainable agricultural and forestry sectors by focusing on the dual priorities of stimulating innovation and integration in the food and fuel chains and of investment in physical and human capital, including promoting the use of ICT technologies and appropriate training.***

#### Amendment 9

Annex, section 3.1, paragraph 1, indent 2

-improving integration in the agrifood chain. Europe's food industry is one of the world's most competitive and innovative, but it is facing increasing global competition. There is considerable scope in the rural economy to create and market new products, to retain more value in rural areas through quality schemes ***and*** to raise the profile of European products overseas. The use of advisory services and support to meet Community standards will contribute to ***this*** integration ***process***. A market oriented agricultural sector will help further consolidate the position of Europe's agrifood sector as a major employer and source of economic growth;

-improving integration in the agrifood chain. Europe's food industry is one of the world's most competitive and innovative, but it is facing increasing global competition. There is considerable scope in the rural economy to create and market new products ***and*** to retain more value in rural areas through quality schemes, ***the involvement of primary producers in processing and marketing initiatives and the promotion of local retailing in order to reduce food miles.*** ***There is also scope*** to raise the profile of European products overseas, ***particularly by developing niche markets.*** The use of advisory services and support to meet Community standards ***and to assist in***



*research and sales promotion* will contribute to *these* integration *processes*. A market oriented agricultural sector will help further consolidate the position of Europe's agrifood sector as a major employer and source of economic growth;

Amendment 10

Annex, paragraph 3.1, subparagraph 1, indent 2

-improving integration in the agrifood chain. Europe's food industry is one of the world's most competitive and innovative, but it is facing increasing global competition. There is considerable scope in the rural economy to create and market new products, to retain more value in rural areas through quality schemes and to raise the profile of European products overseas. The use of advisory services and support to meet Community standards will contribute to this integration process. A market oriented agricultural sector will help further consolidate the position of Europe's agrifood sector as a major employer and source of economic growth;

-improving integration in the agrifood chain. Europe's food industry is one of the world's most competitive and innovative, but it is facing increasing global competition. There is considerable scope in the rural economy to create and market new products, to retain more value in rural areas through quality schemes and to raise the profile of European products overseas. ***In particular local and regional products should be promoted.*** The use of advisory services and support to meet Community standards will contribute to this integration process. A market oriented agricultural sector will help further consolidate the position of Europe's agrifood sector as a major employer and source of economic growth;

*Justification*

*If we are to promote a vibrant and sustainable rural economy, then local and regional business must be part of the foundation of that economy. Rather than erect barriers to local products and small scale businesses, we should support micro businesses, because it is the network of small enterprises that support rural communities.*

Amendment 11

Annex, paragraph 3.1, subparagraph 1, indent 2

-improving integration in the agrifood chain. Europe's food industry is one of the world's most competitive and innovative, but it is facing increasing global competition. There is considerable scope in the rural economy to create and market new products, to retain more value in rural areas through quality schemes and to raise the profile of European products overseas. The use of advisory

***-adapting supply to demand and*** improving integration in the agrifood chain. Europe's food industry is one of the world's most competitive and innovative, but it is facing increasing global competition. There is considerable scope in the rural economy to create and market new products, to retain more value in rural areas through quality schemes and to raise the profile of European

services and support to meet Community standards will contribute to this integration process. A market oriented agricultural sector will help further consolidate the position of Europe's agrifood sector as a major employer and source of economic growth;

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#### Amendment 12

Annex, section 3.1, paragraph 1, indent 4

- fostering dynamic entrepreneurship. The recent reforms have created a market oriented environment for European farming. This brings new opportunities for farm businesses. But the realisation of this economic potential will depend on the development of strategic and organisational skills;

- fostering dynamic entrepreneurship. The recent reforms have created a market oriented environment for European farming. This brings new opportunities for farm businesses. But the realisation of this economic potential will depend on the development of strategic, **business** and organisational skills;

#### Amendment 13

Annex, paragraph 3.1, subparagraph 1, indent 4

- fostering dynamic entrepreneurship. The recent reforms have created a market oriented environment for European farming. This brings new opportunities for farm businesses. But the realisation of this economic potential will depend on the development of strategic and organisational skills;

- fostering dynamic entrepreneurship. The recent reforms have created a market oriented environment for European farming. This brings new opportunities for farm businesses. But the realisation of this economic potential will depend on the development of strategic, **business, marketing** and organisational skills;

#### Amendment 14

Annex, section 3.1, paragraph 1, indent 5

- **development of new outlets for agricultural and forestry products. New outlets can offer higher value added.** Support for investment and training in the **field of non-food production under rural development** can complement measures taken under the first pillar by **creating innovative new outlets for production or**

- **(deletion) support for research, investment and training in the development and use of new products, processes and technologies in relation to energy, including its conservation. Such support can complement measures taken under the first pillar by helping the development of innovative methods of production, such as**

helping the development of renewable energy materials, biofuels and processing capacity;

***through the recycling of waste or, for example, through helping the development of renewable energy materials, biofuels and processing capacity***

Amendment 15

Annex, paragraph 3.1, subparagraph 1, indent 7

- restructuring of the agriculture sector. Rural development is a key tool for restructuring, particularly in the New Member States. Enlargement has changed the agricultural map. Successful agricultural adjustment can be the key to improving the competitiveness and environmental sustainability of the agricultural sector and boosting jobs and growth in related areas of the economy. All Member States should promote the anticipation of change within the agricultural sector in the context of restructuring, and develop a proactive approach to training and retraining of farmers, particularly as regards transferable skills.

- restructuring of the agriculture sector. Rural development is a key tool for restructuring, particularly in the New Member States. Enlargement has changed the agricultural map. Successful agricultural adjustment can be the key to improving the competitiveness and environmental sustainability of the agricultural sector and boosting jobs and growth in related areas of the economy. All Member States should promote the anticipation of change within the agricultural sector ***(taking into account the specific characteristics of each region)*** in the context of restructuring, and develop a proactive approach to training and retraining of farmers, particularly as regards transferable skills.

*Justification*

*The agricultural sector will not become more competitive unless it is restructured on the basis of major public investment focusing on the adjustment of production models and the particular characteristics of regions.*

Amendment 16

Annex, paragraph 3.1, subparagraph 1, indent 7 a (new)

***- supporting local initiatives such as local farmers' markets and local food-quality procurement schemes.***

Amendment 17

Annex, paragraph 3.1, subparagraph 1, indent 7 a (new)

***- facilitating handover from one generation to the next, since this process is essential if farming is to survive in the Member States. The EU must do all it can to eliminate the administrative obstacles which young people have encountered in the past in their attempts to secure rural-development aid. Intergenerational handover must be made***

***a priority objective in all aspects of rural development.***

*Justification*

*The Commission proposal does not take adequate account of the need for intergenerational handover in farming to be facilitated.*

Amendment 18

Annex, paragraph 3.1, subparagraph 2

To enhance generational renewal in agriculture combinations of measures available under axis 1 tailored to the needs of young farmers should be considered.

To enhance generational renewal in agriculture combinations of measures available under axis 1 tailored to the needs of young farmers should be considered, ***such as start-up aid and aid for the transfer of agricultural holdings.***

Amendment 19

Annex, section 3.2, Guideline

To protect and enhance the EU's natural resources and landscapes in rural areas, the resources devoted to axis 2 should contribute to three EU level priority areas: biodiversity and ***preservation of high nature value*** farming and forestry ***systems, water, and*** climate change. The measures available under axis 2 should be used to integrate these environmental objectives and contribute to the implementation of the agricultural and forestry Natura 2000 network, to the Göteborg commitment to reverse biodiversity decline by 2010, to the Water Framework Directive objectives and to the Kyoto Protocol targets for climate change mitigation.

***To protect and enhance the EU's natural resources and landscapes in rural areas, the resources devoted to axis 2 should contribute to three EU level priority areas: the promotion of biodiversity and the sustainable use of farming and forestry land including water resources; action to combat climate change; and contributing to other environmental goods, such as preservation of the cultural and natural landscape and the promotion of territorial balance. The measures available under axis 2 should be used to integrate these environmental objectives and contribute to the implementation of the agricultural and forestry Natura 2000 network, to the Göteborg commitment to reverse biodiversity decline by 2010, to the Water Framework Directive objectives and to the Kyoto Protocol targets for climate change mitigation.***

Amendment 20

Annex, paragraph 3.2, subparagraph 1, indent 1

–promoting environmental services and ***animal friendly*** farming practices. European citizens expect farmers to respect mandatory

–promoting environmental services and ***biodiversity***, animal welfare ***and environmentally*** friendly farming practices .

standards. But many also agree that farmers should be remunerated for signing up to commitments which go further, delivering services that the market will not provide alone, particularly when focused on specific resources such as water and soil;

European citizens expect farmers to respect mandatory standards. But many also agree that farmers should be remunerated for signing up to commitments which go further, delivering services that the market will not provide alone, particularly when focused on specific resources such as water and soil;

Amendment 21

Annex, paragraph 3.2, subparagraph 1, indent 2

– preserving the farmed landscape. In Europe, much of the valued rural environment is the product of agriculture. Appropriate farming systems help to preserve landscapes and habitats ranging from wetlands to dry meadows and mountain pastures. In many areas, this is an important part of cultural and natural heritage and of the overall attractiveness of rural areas as places to live and work;

– preserving the farmed landscape. In Europe, much of the valued rural environment is the product of agriculture. Appropriate farming systems help to preserve landscapes and habitats ranging from wetlands to dry meadows and mountain pastures. In many areas, this is an important part of cultural and natural heritage and of the overall attractiveness of rural areas as places to live, ***for tourism and for work***;

Amendment 22

Annex, paragraph 3.2, subparagraph 1, indent 2

- preserving the farmed landscape. In Europe, much of the valued rural environment is the product of agriculture. Appropriate farming systems help to preserve landscapes and habitats ranging from wetlands to dry meadows and mountain pastures. In many areas, this is an important part of cultural and natural heritage and of the overall attractiveness of rural areas as places to live and work;

- preserving the farmed landscape. In Europe, much of the valued rural environment is the product of agriculture. Appropriate farming systems help to preserve landscapes and habitats ranging from wetlands to dry meadows and mountain pastures. ***Where farming practices are imposed or restricted and the outcome of this is to preserve or enhance landscapes and habitats, a partnership approach between farmers, landowners and state bodies must be put in place to ensure consultation, co-operation and, where appropriate, compensation.*** In many areas, this is an important part of cultural and natural heritage and of the overall attractiveness of rural areas as places to live and work;

*Justification*

*This is to ensure the conservation of landscapes and habitats with the active and ongoing*

*participation of farmers and landowners.*

Amendment 23

Annex, paragraph 3.2, subparagraph 1, indent 2

- preserving the farmed landscape. In Europe, much of the valued rural environment is the product of agriculture. Appropriate farming systems help to preserve landscapes and habitats ranging from wetlands to dry meadows and mountain pastures. In many areas, this is an important part of cultural and natural heritage and of the overall attractiveness of rural areas as places to live and work;

- preserving the ***natural and*** farmed landscape. In Europe, much of the valued rural environment is the product of agriculture. Appropriate farming systems help to preserve landscapes and habitats ranging from wetlands to dry meadows and mountain pastures. In many areas, this is an important part of cultural and natural heritage and of the overall attractiveness of rural areas as places to live and work;

Amendment 24

Annex, paragraph 3.2, subparagraph 1, indent 2 a (new)

***- enhancing woodlands. Woodlands make a special contribution to protecting the environment by regulating water flows, storing the main greenhouse gases and some soil pollutants, constituting a biomass reserve and preventing natural disasters such as fires and landslides;***

Amendment 25

Annex, paragraph 3.2, subparagraph 1, indent 2 a (new)

***- conserving and using water resources sustainably. Agricultural activity is based in large measure on the use of water resources and affects whether their good condition and sufficiency is maintained. There is therefore a need to support and promote actions to ensure the correct use of water for agricultural and forestry activities in order to secure the sustainability of water resources. The same objective also calls for measures to prevent and manage the risks of drought and flooding which have a direct impact on agriculture;***

*Justification*

*The three priority sectors described in the guideline include the protection of water. This*

*important priority sector must also be the subject of special measures geared to the objectives of the Water Framework Directive and aimed at combating the risks of drought and flooding, which particularly affect agriculture and forestry.*

Amendment 26  
Annex, section 3.2, indent 3

- combating climate change. Agriculture and forestry are at the forefront of the development of renewable energy and material sources for bio-energy installations. The development of these energy sources must take into account reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases and **preservation of** the carbon sink effect of forests and organic matter in soil composition;

- combating climate change. Agriculture and forestry are at the forefront of the development of renewable energy and material sources for bio-energy installations. The development of these energy sources must take into account reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases and **the need to increase** the carbon sink effect of forests and organic matter in soil composition;

Amendment 27  
Annex, paragraph 3.2, subparagraph 1, indent 3

**–combating** climate change. Agriculture and forestry are at the forefront of the development of renewable energy and material sources for bio-energy installations. The development of these energy sources must take into account reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases and preservation of the carbon sink effect of forests and organic matter in soil composition;

**–promoting renewable energies to combat** climate change. Agriculture and forestry are at the forefront of the development of renewable energy and material sources for bio-energy installations. The development of these energy sources must take into account reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases and preservation of the carbon sink effect of forests and organic matter in soil composition;

Amendment 28  
Annex, paragraph 3.2, subparagraph 1, indent 3

-combating climate change. Agriculture and forestry are at the forefront of the development of renewable energy and material sources for bio-energy installations. The development of these energy sources must take into account reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases and **preservation of** the carbon sink effect of forests and organic matter in soil composition;

-combating climate change. Agriculture and forestry are at the forefront of the development of renewable energy and material sources for bio-energy installations. The development of these energy sources must take into account reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases and **the need to increase** the carbon sink effect of forests and organic matter in soil composition, **in particular by supporting reforestation activities**

### *Justification*

*Reforestation activities contribute to increase the carbon sink effect of forests and prevent from landslides and desertification, thus contributing to the preservation of a high quality countryside and the environment.*

#### Amendment 29

Annex, paragraph 3.2, subparagraph 1, indent 6

–promoting territorial balance. Rural development programmes can make a vital contribution to the attractiveness of rural areas. They *can also help ensure that in a competitive, knowledge-based economy, a sustainable balance between urban and rural areas is maintained.* In combination with other programme axes, land management measures can make a positive contribution to the spatial distribution of economic activity *and territorial cohesion.*

–promoting territorial balance. Rural development programmes can make a vital contribution to the attractiveness of rural areas. They *should also encourage cooperation between urban and rural areas so as to maintain a sustainable balance between them and strengthen territorial cohesion.* In combination with other programme axes, land management measures can make a positive contribution to the spatial distribution of economic activity .

#### Amendment 30

Annex, paragraph 3.2, subparagraph 1, indent 6

–promoting territorial balance. Rural development programmes can make a vital contribution to the attractiveness of rural areas. They can also help ensure that in a competitive, knowledge-based economy, a sustainable balance between urban and rural areas is maintained. In combination with other programme axes, land management measures can make a positive contribution to the spatial distribution of economic activity and territorial cohesion.

–promoting territorial balance. Rural development programmes can make a vital contribution to the attractiveness of rural areas. They can also help ensure that in a competitive, knowledge-based economy, a sustainable balance between urban and rural areas is maintained. In combination with other programme axes, land management measures can make a positive contribution to the spatial distribution of economic activity and territorial cohesion. *To ensure a balanced urban/rural population, it is also necessary to grant specific support for activities located in the most disadvantaged areas or areas with natural or permanent handicaps.*

#### Amendment 31

Annex, paragraph 3.1, subparagraph 1, indent 6 a (new)

*-improving measures to prevent forest fires, which are the main cause of damage to Europe's woodlands. The Member States*



*must step up their efforts to prevent and fight such fires by ensuring that regional and/or national programmes are brought up to date and better coordinated. Under rural-development programmes, farmers must be given a greater role to play in the conservation of woodlands, since their work is essential to the upkeep of the countryside in rural areas.*

#### *Justification*

*A greater effort must be made under the 'forestry' aspect of rural development in order to ensure that the appalling scenes witnessed each year in many parts of Europe on account of forest fires (a phenomenon which is being accentuated by climate change) become a thing of the past. The new European Agricultural Regional-Development Fund does not specifically include the aid which in the past was granted to farmers in order to pay for fire-prevention measures, even though they constitute the sector of the rural population which can do most to protect the countryside, especially in view of the fact that rural areas are losing many of their inhabitants.*

#### Amendment 32

Annex, section 3.3, title

Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification

Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification ***of the rural economy***

#### Amendment 33

Annex, section 3.3, Guideline

The resources devoted to the fields of diversification of the rural economy and quality of life in rural areas under axis 3 should contribute to the overarching priority of ***the creation of*** employment opportunities. The range of measures available under axis 3 should in particular be used to promote capacity building, skills acquisition and organisation for local strategy development and also help ensure that rural areas remain attractive for future generations. In promoting training, information and entrepreneurship, ***the particular needs of women and young people should be considered.***

***The resources devoted to the fields of diversification of the rural economy and measures to improve the quality of life in rural areas under axis 3 should contribute to the overarching priority of stimulating the development of balanced and integrated economies in rural areas, where appropriate in complementarity with nearby urban areas, in order to improve the quality of life, promote social inclusion and create sustainable employment opportunities. The range of measures available under axis 3 should in particular be used to promote capacity building, skills acquisition and organisation for local strategy development and also help ensure***

*that rural areas remain attractive for future generations. In promoting training, information and entrepreneurship, particular attention should be paid to farm families and to the removal of barriers for those for whom access to the labour market is currently difficult because of gender, ethnicity, age or disability*

Amendment 34

Annex, paragraph 3.3, subparagraph 1, indent 1

–raising economic activity and employment rates in the wider rural economy. Diversification is necessary for growth, employment and sustainable development in rural areas, and thereby contributes to a better territorial balance, both in economic and social terms. Tourism, crafts and the provision of rural amenities are growth sectors in many regions and offer opportunities both for on-farm diversification and the development of micro-businesses in the broader rural economy;

–raising economic activity and employment rates in the wider rural economy. Diversification is necessary for growth, employment and sustainable development in rural areas, and thereby contributes to a better territorial balance ***and greater cohesion between rural and urban areas***, both in economic and social terms. Tourism, crafts and the provision of rural amenities are growth sectors in many regions and offer opportunities both for on-farm diversification and the development of micro-businesses in the broader rural economy;

Amendment 35

Annex, section 3.3, indent 2

–encouraging *the entry of women* into the labour market. ***Local initiatives to develop childcare facilities in rural areas can improve employment opportunities and facilitate access of women to the labour market. This can*** include the development of ***child-care infrastructure, potentially in combination with initiatives to encourage the creation of small businesses related to rural activities;***

***- improving the quality of life of women in rural areas and encouraging their entry into and their remaining in the official labour market. Initiatives, for example, may include the development of high quality care facilities for children and the elderly, as well as the promotion of family friendly work situations, the provision of training and access to micro-credit for business creation, support of small businesses and the establishment and development of women's networks;***

Amendment 36

Annex, section 3.3, indent 2 a (new)

***- measures to counter the depopulation of***

*rural areas, particularly in relation to young people, by improving local amenities, access to services and the availability of cultural and leisure activities;*

Amendment 37

Annex, paragraph 3.3, subparagraph 1, indent 4

– *training young people in traditional rural skills* can tap into demand for tourism, recreation, environmental services and quality products;

–*developing traditional rural skills and quality schemes such as charters or labels and training young people in them. This will make it possible to* tap into demand for tourism, recreation, environmental services and quality *or typical local* products.

Amendment 38

Annex, section 3.3, indent 6

- developing the provision and innovative use of renewable energy sources can contribute to creating new outlets for agricultural and forestry products, the provision of local services and the diversification of the rural economy;

- developing the provision and innovative use of renewable energy sources can contribute to creating new outlets for agricultural and forestry products, the provision of local services and the diversification of the rural economy *in addition to helping to mitigate the impact of climate change;*

Amendment 39

Annex, paragraph 3.3, subparagraph 1, indent 6

- developing the provision and innovative use of renewable energy sources can contribute to creating new outlets for agricultural and forestry products, the provision of local services and the diversification of the rural economy;

- developing the provision and innovative use of renewable energy sources *and promoting energy efficiency systems and energy services for producers* can contribute to creating new outlets for agricultural and forestry products, the provision of local services and the diversification of the rural economy;

*Justification*

*Promoting energy efficiency systems and providing energy services for producers can contribute to the development of the rural economy.*

Amendment 40

Annex, section 3.3, indent 7

-encouraging the development of Tourism. Tourism is a major growth sector in many rural areas. Increased use of ITC in tourism for bookings, promotion, marketing, service design and recreational activities can help improve visitor number and length of stays, particularly where this provides links to smaller facilities and encourages agri-tourism;

***- encouraging the development of sustainable Tourism. Tourism is a major growth sector in many rural areas. Increased use of ITC in tourism for bookings, promotion, marketing, service design and recreational activities, involving the networking of local and regional operators can help improve visitor number and length of stays, particularly where this provides links to smaller facilities and encourages agri-tourism, other forms of environmentally sustainable tourism and tourism related to sport.***

Amendment 41

Annex, paragraph 3.3, subparagraph 1, indent 8

- upgrading of local infrastructure, particularly in the New Member States. Significant investment will be undertaken in major telecommunications, transport, energy and water infrastructure over the coming years. Considerable support will be available from the Structural Funds ranging from trans-European networks to the development of connections to business or science parks. For the multiplier effect to be fully realised in terms of jobs and growth, small-scale local infrastructure supported within rural development programmes can play a vital role in connecting these major investments to local strategies for diversification and development of agricultural and food-sector potential.

- upgrading of local infrastructure, particularly in the New Member States. Significant investment will be undertaken in major telecommunications, transport, energy and water infrastructure over the coming years. Considerable support will be available from the Structural Funds ranging from trans-European networks to the development of connections to business or science parks. ***An equitable share of these resources must also be located in rural areas to ensure a significant balance of development between rural and urban areas.*** For the multiplier effect to be fully realised in terms of jobs and growth, small-scale local infrastructure supported within rural development programmes can play a vital role in connecting these major investments to local strategies for diversification and development of agricultural and food-sector potential.

*Justification*

*If all major development is concentrated in urban or semi-urban areas, rural areas will continue to lag behind.*

Amendment 42

Annex, paragraph 3.3, subparagraph 1, indent 8 a (new)

***- preserving and enhancing the role of the natural and cultural heritage, which has an***

*essential part to play in protecting the environment, attracting tourists and ensuring that the inhabitants of rural areas continue to enjoy a high quality of life.*

#### *Justification*

*Protecting the natural and cultural heritage should be one of the Member States' major priorities.*

#### Amendment 43 Annex, section 3.4, Guideline

The resources devoted to axis 4 (Leader) should contribute to the priorities of axis 1 and 2 and in particular of axis 3, but also play an important role in the priority of improving governance and mobilising the endogenous development potential of rural areas.

***The resources devoted to axis 4 (Leader) should contribute to the priorities of axis 1 and 2 and in particular of axis 3, but also play an important role in the priority of improving governance and encouraging people to stimulate sustainable development, mobilising potential inherent in the local area***

#### Amendment 44 Annex, paragraph 3.4, subparagraph 2, indent 1

- building local partnership capacity, animation and promoting skills acquisition can help mobilise local potential;

- building local partnership capacity, animation and promoting skills acquisition can help mobilise local potential, ***prevent social exclusion and combat depopulation;***

#### Amendment 45 Annex, paragraph 3.4, subparagraph 2, indent 2

- promoting private-public partnership. In particular, Leader will continue to play an important role in encouraging innovative approaches to rural development and bringing the private and public sectors together;

- promoting private-public partnership. In particular, Leader will continue to play an important role in ***ensuring community participation and*** encouraging innovative approaches to rural development and bringing the private and public sectors together;

#### Amendment 46 Annex, paragraph 3.4, subparagraph 2, indent 4

- improving local governance. Leader can help foster innovative approaches to linking agriculture, forestry and the local economy thereby helping to diversify the economic base and strengthen the socio-economic

- improving local governance. Leader can help foster innovative approaches to linking agriculture, forestry and the local economy thereby helping to diversify the economic base and strengthen the socio-economic

*tissue* of rural areas.

*fabric* of rural areas *in particular*.

Amendment 47

Annex, paragraph 3.4, subparagraph 2, indent 4

– improving local governance. Leader can help foster innovative approaches to linking agriculture, forestry and the local economy thereby helping to diversify the economic base and strengthen the socio-economic tissue of rural areas.

– improving local governance. Leader can help foster innovative approaches to linking agriculture, forestry and the local economy thereby helping to diversify the economic base and strengthen the socio-economic tissue of rural areas, *at an appropriate level*.

Amendment 48

Annex, section 3.4, paragraph 2, indent 4 a (new)

*- fostering co-operation between local action groups within different Member States and between these and similar groupings in third countries.*

Amendment 49

Annex, paragraph 3.4, subparagraph 2, indent 4 a (new)

*–adjusting to the strengths and weaknesses of each territory given the diversity of rural areas, by relying on local actors and supporting really endogenous regional development projects.*

Amendment 50

Annex, paragraph 3.5, subparagraph 1

The resources devoted to the Community rural development priorities (within the regulatory minimum funding limits for each axis) will depend on the specific situation, strengths and weaknesses of each programme area. Each of the Community priorities, and their contribution to Lisbon and Göteborg objectives, will need to be translated into the Member State context in the national strategy plan and rural development programmes. In many cases, there will be national or regional priorities for specific problems related to the agrifood sector or the environmental, climatic and geographical situation of agriculture and forestry. Rural areas may have to deal with other specific issues such as peri-urban

The resources devoted to the Community rural development priorities (within the regulatory minimum funding limits for each axis) will depend on the specific situation, strengths and weaknesses of each programme area *and the regions' specific characteristics in accordance with the EC Treaty*. Each of the Community priorities, and their contribution to Lisbon and Göteborg objectives, will need to be translated into the Member State context in the national strategy plan and rural development programmes. In many cases, there will be national or regional priorities for specific problems related to the agrifood sector or the environmental, climatic and geographical situation of agriculture and

pressure, unemployment, remoteness or low population density.

forestry. Rural areas may have to deal with other specific issues such as peri-urban pressure, unemployment, remoteness or low population density.

#### *Justification*

*This is in accordance with the EC Treaty provisions relating to regions which have permanent specific constraints.*

#### Amendment 51

##### Annex, paragraph 3.5, subparagraph 1

The resources devoted to the Community rural development priorities (within the regulatory minimum funding limits for each axis) will depend on the specific situation, strengths and weaknesses of each programme area. Each of the Community priorities, and their contribution to Lisbon and Göteborg objectives, will need to be translated into the Member State context in the national strategy plan and rural development programmes. In many cases, there will be national or regional priorities for specific problems related to the agrifood sector or the environmental, climatic and geographical situation of agriculture and forestry. Rural areas may have to deal with other specific issues such as peri-urban pressure, unemployment, remoteness or low population density.

The resources devoted to the Community rural development priorities (within the regulatory minimum funding limits for each axis) will depend on the specific situation, strengths and weaknesses of each programme area. Each of the Community priorities, and their contribution to Lisbon and Göteborg objectives, will need to be translated into the Member State context in the national strategy plan and rural development programmes. In many cases, there will be national or regional priorities for specific problems related to the agrifood sector or the environmental, climatic and geographical situation of agriculture and forestry. Rural areas may have to deal with other specific issues such as peri-urban pressure, unemployment, remoteness, ***mountainous or island nature*** or low population density.

#### Amendment 52

##### Annex, section 3.5, Guideline

In working out their national strategies, Member States should ***ensure that*** synergies between ***and within*** the axes ***are maximised and potential contradictions avoided***. They will also wish to reflect on how to take into account other EU level strategies such as the Action Plan for Organic Farming, the latest Commission Communication on Renewable Energy the Commission's recent Communication on Climate Change and the need to anticipate the likely effects on

In working out their national strategies, Member States should ***take an integrated approach embodying appropriate spatial planning and maximising*** synergies between the axes ***and should seek the broadest possible involvement of all appropriate bodies, under the Partnership Principle as identified by Article 6 of the Council Regulation***. They will also wish to reflect on how to take into account other EU level strategies such as the Action Plan for

farming and forestry, and the Commission's report on the EU Forestry Strategy (which can help deliver on both the growth and employment and the sustainability objectives) and the forthcoming thematic environmental strategies.

Organic Farming, the latest Commission Communication on Renewable Energy, the Commission's recent Communication on Climate Change and the need to anticipate the likely effects on farming and forestry, and the Commission's report on the EU Forestry Strategy (which can help deliver on both the growth and employment and the sustainability objectives) and the forthcoming thematic environmental strategies.

Amendment 53  
Annex, paragraph 3.5, Guideline

In working out their national strategies, Member States should ensure that synergies between and within the axes are maximised and potential contradictions avoided. They will also wish to reflect on how to take into account other EU level strategies such as the Action Plan for Organic Farming, the latest Commission Communication on Renewable Energy, the Commission's recent Communication on Climate Change and the need to anticipate the likely effects on farming and forestry, and the Commission's report on the EU Forestry Strategy (which can help deliver both on the growth and employment and the sustainability objectives) and the forthcoming thematic environmental strategies.

In working out their national strategies, Member States should ensure that synergies between and within the axes are maximised and potential contradictions avoided ***and should seek the broadest possible involvement of all competent authorities and appropriate bodies under the Partnership Principle laid down in Article 6 of the Council Regulation.*** They will also wish to reflect on how to take into account other EU level strategies such as the Action Plan for Organic Farming, the latest Commission Communication on Renewable Energy, the Commission's recent Communication on Climate Change and the need to anticipate the likely effects on farming and forestry, and the Commission's report on the EU Forestry Strategy (which can help deliver both on the growth and employment and the sustainability objectives) and the forthcoming thematic environmental strategies.

Amendment 54  
Annex, section 3.6, Guideline

***The*** synergy between structural, employment and rural development policies needs to be encouraged. In this context, Member States should ensure complementarity and coherence between actions to be financed by the ERDF, Cohesion Fund, ESF, EFF and EAFRD on a

***Synergy between structural, employment, social inclusion and rural development policies and cooperation between different regional partners need to be encouraged. In this context, Member States should, in accordance with their institutional structure, ensure complementarity and***



given territory and in a given field of activity. The main guiding principles as regards the demarcation line and the coordination mechanisms between actions supported by the different Funds should be defined at the level of national strategic reference framework/national strategy plan.

***coherence between actions to be financed by the TEN-T, LIFE+, ERDF, Cohesion Fund, ESF, EFF and EAFRD on a given territory and in a given field of activity. The main guiding principles as regards the demarcation line and the coordination mechanisms between actions supported by the different Funds should be defined at the level of regional and/or national strategic reference framework/regional and/or national strategy plan, as appropriate to the Member State concerned. The one Fund per Programme principle should be observed.***

#### Amendment 55

##### Annex, paragraph 3.6, subparagraph 2

As regards the development of human capital, support under rural development would target farmers and the economic actors involved in the diversification of the rural economy. The population of rural areas could receive support as part of an integrated, bottom-up approach. Actions in these fields should be implemented in full compliance with the objectives of the European Employment Strategy, as set out in the Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs and coherent with the actions taken under the national reform programmes in the framework of the Lisbon process. The Education and Training 2010 work programme seeks to achieve the education and the training side of the Lisbon goals. Lifelong learning is at the heart of this programme and applies to all levels and types of education and training, including the agricultural, forestry and agrifood sectors.

As regards the development of human capital, support under rural development would target farmers, ***their families*** and the economic actors involved in the diversification of the rural economy, ***in co-ordination with support afforded under other structural instruments***. The population of rural areas could receive support as part of an integrated, bottom-up approach. Actions in these fields should be implemented in full compliance with the objectives of the European Employment Strategy, as set out in the Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs and coherent with the actions taken under the national reform programmes in the framework of the Lisbon process. The Education and Training 2010 work programme seeks to achieve the education and the training side of the Lisbon goals. Lifelong learning is at the heart of this programme and applies to all levels and types of education and training, including the agricultural, forestry and agrifood sectors.

#### *Justification*

*Diversification of the rural economy is a crucial economic driver in rural areas but its development must be as flexible as possible and must not be constrained by restricting the*

*type of funding available for its promotion purely to the rural development instrument.*

Amendment 56  
Annex, paragraph 4, subparagraph 2

The framework will provide a limited set of common indicators and a common methodology. It will be supplemented by programme-specific indicators to reflect the character of each programme area.

The framework will provide a limited set of common indicators, ***in particular territorial indicators as called for by Parliament in its resolution of 28 September 2005 on the role of territorial cohesion in regional development<sup>1</sup>***, and a common methodology. It will be supplemented by programme-specific indicators to reflect the character of each programme area.

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<sup>1</sup> Texts adopted, 28.9.2005, P6\_TA(2005)0358.

## PROCEDURE

<b>Title</b>	On the proposal for a Council decision on Community strategic guidelines for Rural Development (Programming period 2007-2013)
<b>References</b>	(COM(2005)0304– C6-0000/0000 – 2005/0129(CNS))
<b>Committee responsible</b>	AGRI
<b>Opinion by</b> Date announced in plenary	REGI 15.11.2005
<b>Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary</b>	-
<b>Drafts(wo)man</b> Date appointed	Elspeth Attwooll 06.10.2005
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	21.11.2005
<b>Date adopted</b>	24.1.2006
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: [47] –: [1] 0: [0]
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Alfonso Andria, Stavros Arnautakis, Elspeth Attwooll, Jean Marie Beaupuy, Rolf Berend, Jana Bobošíková, Graham Booth, Bernadette Bourzai, Giovanni Claudio Fava, Hanna Foltyn-Kubicka, Iratxe García Pérez, Eugenijus Gentvilas, Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg, Ambroise Guellec, Zita Gurmai, Gábor Harangozó, Marian Harkin, Jim Higgins, Alain Hutchinson, Carlos José Iturgaiz Angulo, Mieczysław Edmund Janowski, Gisela Kallenbach, Tunne Kelam, Miloš Koterec, Constanze Angela Krehl, Jamila Madeira, Yiannakis Matsis, Miroslav Mikolášik, Francesco Musotto, James Nicholson, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Jan Olbrycht, Markus Pieper, Francisca Pleguezuelos Aguilar, Alyn Smith, Grażyna Staniszevska, Margie Sudre, Kyriacos Triantaphyllides, Oldřich Vlasák, Vladimír Železný
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Simon Busuttil, Ole Christensen, Den Dover, Jillian Evans, Emanuel Jardim Fernandes, Mirosław Mariusz Piotrowski, László Surján, Manfred Weber
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote</b>	
<b>Comments (available in one language only)</b>	-