

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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2009

Committee on Regional Development

2008/0105(CNS)

11.9.2008

OPINION

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

on the proposal for a Council regulation amending Regulation No 1698/2005
on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural
Development (EAFRD)
(COM(2008)0306 – C6-0242/2008 – 2008/0105(CNS))

Rapporteur: Markus Pieper

PA_Legam

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The rapporteur welcomes the proposal and takes the view that the Health Check of the CAP should provide a cutback of bureaucracy, simplification of procedures and better coordination of instruments.

Therefore, the rapporteur deems that there should be a coordinated approach between the funding of rural development and other relevant EU policies, like cohesion policy. This would help to coordinate interventions, avoid overlapping and increase available funding.

With the funding of rural development already under financial pressure it has to be ensured that existing measures and approved interventions dispose of sufficient funding for implementation. Therefore, Member States should be given the opportunity to design their rural development programmes in accordance with their specific needs.

Given the limited resources for rural development in general the rapporteur takes the view that it should be considered to interlink funding resources for structural and rural development. Therefore, the possibility of re-using unspent resources from the Structural Funds (due to the N+2, N+3 rule) should constitute an important measure that can lead to the support not only of cohesion policy but also of rural development programmes (even if currently financed under Heading 2) and greater flexibility should be introduced to that effect.

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:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation – amending act Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) In accordance with Article 9(4) and Article 10(4) of Council Regulation (EC) No XXXX/XXXX of XX/XX/2008 [establishing common rules for direct support schemes under the common agricultural policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers] financial resources raised by way of the additional modulation are to be used for rural development support. It is appropriate to

Amendment

(11) In accordance with Article 9(4) and Article 10(4) of Council Regulation (EC) No XXXX/XXXX of XX/XX/2008 [establishing common rules for direct support schemes under the common agricultural policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers] financial resources raised by way of the additional modulation are to be used for rural development support. It is appropriate to

ensure that an amount equal to those financial resources should be used to support operations related to the new challenges.

ensure that an amount equal to those financial resources should be used to support ***both existing and new*** operations related to the new challenges ***according to the decisions of each Member State.***
However, care must be taken not to deter farm production where its contribution to rural development is vital.

Justification

Besides the newly identified challenges, it has to be ensured that already existing measures and approved interventions dispose of sufficient funding for implementation.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation – amending act Recital 11 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(11a) These operations should be consistent with operations funded by other Community funds and in particular the Structural Funds (European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund and Cohesion Fund).

Justification

A coordinated approach with other relevant EU policies, like cohesion policy, would help to coordinate interventions, avoid overlapping and increase available funding.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation – amending act Recital 12a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(12a) In order to ensure adequate funding for rural development programmes, greater flexibility should be introduced to enable in addition, the use, within the same Member State, of unspent resources of the Structural Funds (Heading 1b) for this purpose.

Justification

The possibility of re-using unspent resources from the Structural Funds (due to the N+2, N+3 rule - Heading 1b), in order to support other EU cohesion policy and rural development programmes, needs strongly to be envisaged. The limited resources available for structural operations on the ground call for a new system to be established to that effect. Greater flexibility should also be introduced, so as to allow for these resources to be also used for rural development (currently financed under Heading 2).

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation – amending act

Article 1 – point 3

Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005

Article 16a – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. Member States shall ensure synergy with similar operations funded by other Community funds, in particular the Structural Funds, and shall develop integrated approaches to strategies, activities and funding, where appropriate.

Justification

Same justification as amendment 2

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation – amending act

Article 1 - point 6 a (new)

Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005

Article 60

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6a) Article 60 shall be replaced by the following:

Where a measure falling within this section targets operations eligible also under another Community support instrument, including the Structural Funds and the Community support instrument for fisheries, the Member State shall set in each programme the

administrative controls for the operations supported by the EAFRD and those supported by the other Community support instrument.

Justification

The establishment of 'arbitrary' limitation controls means in practice that certain operators in the fruit and vegetables, wine, olive oil, sheepmeat, beef and veal, beekeeping and sugar sectors will be prevented from accessing one of the two instruments (COM or RDP). It is possible to avoid 'double financing' by means of administrative controls, but not via arbitrary restrictions of an a priori nature and of the 'ceiling' type.

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation – amending act

Article 1 – point 7

Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005

Article 69 – paragraph 5a

Text proposed by the Commission

(5a) An amount equal to the amounts resulting from the application of the compulsory modulation under Articles 9(4) and 10(4) of Regulation (EC) [No XXXX/2008 (new Regulation on direct support schemes)] shall be spent by Member States in the period from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2015 as Community support under the current rural development programmes for operations ***of the types referred to in Article 16a of this Regulation approved after 1 January 2010.***

Amendment

(5a) An amount equal to the amounts resulting from the application of the compulsory modulation under Articles 9(4) and 10(4) of Regulation (EC) [No XXXX/2008 (new Regulation on direct support schemes)] shall be spent by Member States in the period from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2015 as Community support under the current rural development programmes for ***both existing and new*** operations related to the new challenges, ***according to the decisions of each Member State.***

Justification

Same justification as amendment 1

PROCEDURE

Title	Amendment of Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)
References	COM(2008)0306 – C6-0242/2008 – 2008/0105(CNS)
Committee responsible	AGRI
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	REGI 19.6.2008
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Markus Pieper 16.7.2008
Discussed in committee	17.7.2008
Date adopted	9.9.2008
Result of final vote	+: 49 -: 0 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	Emmanouil Angelakas, Stavros Arnaoutakis, Elspeth Attwooll, Jean Marie Beaupuy, Rolf Berend, Victor Boştinaru, Wolfgang Bulfon, Giorgio Carollo, Antonio De Blasio, Petru Filip, Gerardo Galeote, Iratxe García Pérez, Eugenijus Gentvilas, Ambroise Guellec, Gábor Harangozó, Marian Harkin, Jim Higgins, Filiz Hakaeva Hyusmenova, Mieczysław Edmund Janowski, Rumiana Jeleva, Gisela Kallenbach, Tunne Kelam, Evgeni Kirilov, Miloš Koterec, Constanze Angela Krehl, Florencio Luque Aguilar, Sérgio Marques, Yiannakis Matsis, Miroslav Mikolášik, James Nicholson, Jan Olbrycht, Maria Grazia Pagano, Maria Petre, Markus Pieper, Pierre Pribetich, Giovanni Robusti, Wojciech Roszkowski, Elisabeth Schroedter, Grażyna Staniszevska, Catherine Stihler, Margie Sudre, Andrzej Jan Szejna, Kyriacos Triantaphyllides, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Oldřich Vlasák
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Den Dover, Emanuel Jardim Fernandes, Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg, Eleonora Lo Curto, Zita Pleštinská, Iuliu Winkler