

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

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*Committee on Regional Development*

**2008/0103(CNS)**

12.9.2008

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

on the proposal for a Council regulation establishing common rules for direct support schemes for farmers under the common agricultural policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers  
(COM(2008)0306 – C6-0240/2008 – 2008/0103(CNS))

Rapporteur: Markus Pieper

PA\_Legam

## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Commission's proposal aims at promoting a sustainable and market orientated agricultural sector, without constituting a fundamental reform.

The rapporteur welcomes the path of reform and considers that the process of opening up the market and simplifying the CAP by 2013 must be pursued. Nevertheless it should be guaranteed that the 2003 reforms are completed before a revolutionary restructuring of the CAP is undertaken.

**Modulation and degressivity:** The rapporteur takes the view that the European farmers need planning reliability. In times of rising prices for feedstock additional modulation is not justified. Therefore, the rapporteur does not approve of the further progressive modulation as a matter of principle: the proposal introduces more bureaucracy and might just lead to the split up of larger farms and to additional burden for small farmers.

**Cross-compliance:** The rapporteur rejects any widening of the scope of cross-compliance. Therefore, he deems that additional criteria should not be compulsory since they do not correspond to the aims of cutting red tape and unnecessary burden.

## 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 Recital 3

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(3) Furthermore, in order to avoid the abandonment of agricultural land and ensure that it is maintained in good agricultural and environmental condition, Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003 established a Community framework within which Member States adopt standards taking account of the specific characteristics of the areas concerned, including soil and climatic conditions and existing farming systems (land use, crop rotation, farming practices) and farm structures. The abolition of compulsory set aside within the single payment scheme may in certain

##### *Amendment*

(3) Furthermore, in order to avoid the abandonment of agricultural land and ensure that it is maintained in good agricultural and environmental condition, Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003 established a Community framework within which Member States adopt standards taking account of the specific characteristics of the areas concerned, including soil and climatic conditions and existing farming systems (land use, crop rotation, farming practices) and farm structures. The abolition of compulsory set aside within the single payment scheme may in certain

cases have adverse effects for the environment, in particular as regards certain landscape features. It is therefore appropriate to reinforce the existing Community provisions aiming at protecting, where appropriate, specified landscape features.

cases have adverse effects for the environment, in particular as regards certain landscape features. It is therefore appropriate to reinforce the existing Community provisions aiming at protecting, where appropriate, specified landscape features. ***While taking account of the need to ensure the highest water quality standards, as laid down in Community legislation, no further restrictions should be imposed which would impede desirable rural development.***

## Amendment 2

### Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 1

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

1. A farmer receiving direct payments shall respect the statutory management requirements listed in Annex II, and the good agricultural and environmental condition established under Article 6.

#### *Amendment*

1. A farmer receiving direct payments shall respect the statutory management requirements listed in Annex II, and the good agricultural and environmental condition established under Article 6, ***unless impracticable and disproportionate, for instance, in the event of major natural disasters.***

#### *Justification*

*The principle of simplifying procedures through cross-compliance is in conflict with this prescription, which reintroduces unnecessary burden and bureaucracy. Most of the required criteria are already covered by existing EU provisions.*

## Amendment 3

### Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 2

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

2. The competent national authority shall provide the farmer with the list of statutory management requirements and good agricultural and environmental condition ***to***

#### *Amendment*

2. The competent national authority shall provide the farmer with the list of statutory management requirements and good agricultural and environmental condition.

*be respected.*

#### *Justification*

*See justification to am. 2(ex 1).*

### **Amendment 4**

#### **Proposal for a regulation Article 7**

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

1. Any amount of direct payments to be granted in a given calendar year to a farmer that exceeds **EUR 5 000** shall be reduced for each year until 2012 by the following percentages:

- (a) 2009: **7%**,
- (b) 2010: **9%**,
- (c) 2011: **11%**,
- (d) 2012: **13%**.

**2. The reductions referred to in paragraph 1 shall be increased for the:**

- (a) amounts between EUR 100 000 and 199 999, by 3 percentage points,**
- (b) amounts between EUR 200 000 and 299 999, by 6 percentage points,**
- (c) amounts of EUR 300 000 or more, by 9 percentage points.**

**3. Paragraphs 1 and 2** shall not apply to direct payments granted to farmers in the French overseas departments, in the Azores and Madeira, in the Canary and Aegean islands.

##### *Amendment*

1. Any amount of direct payments to be granted in a given calendar year to a farmer that exceeds **EUR 10 000** shall be reduced for each year until 2012 by the following percentages:

- (a) 2009: **6%**,
- (b) 2010: **7%**,
- (c) 2011: **8%**,
- (d) 2012: **9%**.

**2. Paragraph 1** shall not apply to direct payments granted to farmers in the French overseas departments, in the Azores and Madeira, in the Canary and Aegean islands.

#### *Justification*

*Rising prices for feedstock do not justify additional modulation. Progressive modulation should be deleted as it discriminates against and penalises large efficient farmers who rely on economy of scale and strengthen rural development. At the same time small farmers should not have to bear on additional burden.*

## Amendment 5

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 9 – paragraph 4

##### *Text proposed by the Commission*

4. The remaining amount resulting from the application of Article 7(1) **and the amounts resulting from the application of Article 7(2)** shall be allocated to the Member State where the corresponding amounts have been generated, in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 128(2). They shall be used in accordance with Article 69(5a) of Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005.

##### *Amendment*

4. The remaining amount resulting from the application of Article 7 shall be allocated **in full** to the Member State where the corresponding amounts have been generated, in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 128(2). They shall be used in accordance with Article 69(5a) of Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005.

##### *Justification*

*Amendment introduced to ensure coherence of text due to approval of am. 4 (ex 3).*

## Amendment 6

### Proposal for a regulation

#### Article 10, paragraph 4

##### *Texte proposé par la Commission*

4. Any amount resulting from the application of Article 7(1) **and (2)** shall be allocated to the new Member State where the corresponding amounts have been generated in accordance with the procedure referred to in article 128(2). They shall be used in accordance with Article 69(5a) of Regulation (EC) no 1698/2005.

##### *Amendement*

4. Any amount resulting from the application of Article 7(1) shall be allocated to the new Member State where the corresponding amounts have been generated in accordance with the procedure referred to in article 128(2). They shall be used in accordance with Article 69(5a) of Regulation (EC) no 1698/2005.

##### *Justification*

*Amendment introduced to ensure coherence of text due to approval of am. 4 (ex 3).*

## Amendment 7

**Proposal for a regulation**  
**Article 47 - paragraph 2**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

2. Member States shall define the regions according to objective and non-discriminatory criteria such as their institutional or administrative structure and/or the regional agricultural potential.

Member States with less than three million eligible hectares may be considered as one single region.

*Amendment*

2. Member States shall define the regions according to objective and non-discriminatory criteria such as their institutional or administrative structure and/or the regional agricultural potential, ***and/or the structural disadvantages suffered by deprived regions.***

Member States with less than three million eligible hectares may be considered as one single region. ***The Commission shall consider the provision of an appeals mechanism in the event of a dispute.***

*Justification*

*To ensure that no existing or new discrimination is sustained at regional level.*

**Amendment 8**

**Proposal for a regulation**  
**Article 60 - paragraph 2**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

2. The new Member States shall define the regions according to objective and non-discriminatory criteria.

*Amendment*

2. The new Member States shall define the regions according to objective and non-discriminatory criteria. ***The Commission shall consider the provision of an appeals mechanism . in the event of a dispute.***

*Justification*

*To ensure that no new discrimination is permitted at Regional level.*

**Amendment 9**

**Proposal for a regulation**  
**Annex III – point 5**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

***Protection and management of water:***

*Amendment*

***deleted***

*Protect water against pollution and run-off, and manage the use of water*  
– *Establishment of buffer strips along water courses,*  
– *respect of authorisation procedures for using water for irrigation.*

*Justification*

*The approach should focus on simplifying cross compliance criteria. In contrast, this proposal broadens the scope. Most of the required criteria are already covered by existing EU legislation, for example on plant protection and fertilisation.*



## PROCEDURE

<b>Title</b>	Support schemes for farmers under the CAP						
<b>References</b>	COM(2008)0306 – C6-0240/2008 – 2008/0103(CNS)						
<b>Committee responsible</b>	AGRI						
<b>Opinion by</b> Date announced in plenary	REGI 10.7.2008						
<b>Drafts(wo)man</b> Date appointed	Markus Pieper 16.7.2008						
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	17.7.2008						
<b>Date adopted</b>	9.9.2008						
<b>Result of final vote</b>	<table> <tr> <td>+:           </td><td>48</td></tr> <tr> <td>–:           </td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>0:           </td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	+:	48	–:	2	0:	2
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<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Emmanouil Angelakas, Stavros Arnaoutakis, Elspeth Attwooll, Jean Marie Beaupuy, Rolf Berend, Victor Boştinaru, Wolfgang Bulfon, Giorgio Carollo, Antonio De Blasio, Bairbre de Brún, 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, Lambert van Nistelrooij, 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, Oldřich Vlasák						
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Den Dover, Emanuel Jardim Fernandes, Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg, Eleonora Lo Curto, Zita Pleštinská, Iuliu Winkler						