

Monday, 12 September 1983

VOTE: ⁽¹⁾

Preamble and recitals A and B: adopted

Recital C:

— amendment 1 by Mrs Nikolaou: rejected by electronic vote.

Recital C was adopted.

Recital D and paragraph 1: adopted.

Paragraphs 2 and 3:

— amendment 6 by Mr Colleselli, on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture: rejected,

— amendment 2 by Mrs Nikolaou.

The rapporteur and Mrs Nikolaou asked for this amendment to be considered as an addition.

The amendment was rejected.

Paragraphs 2 and 3 were adopted.

Paragraph 4:

— amendment 3 by Mrs Nikolaou: rejected.

Paragraph 4 was adopted.

Paragraph 5: adopted.

Paragraph 6:

— amendment 4 by Mrs Nikolaou: rejected,

— amendment 9 by Mr Eyraud and Mr Saby: rejected.

Paragraph 6 was adopted.

Paragraph 7: adopted.

After paragraph 7:

— amendment 7 by Mr Colleselli, on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture. The rapporteur requested a split vote.

7(a): adopted.

7(b): adopted.

Paragraph 8:

— amendment 5 by Mrs Nikolaou: rejected.

Paragraph 8 was adopted.

Paragraph 9:

— amendment 10 by Mr Eyraud and Mr Saby: rejected.

Paragraph 9 was adopted

Paragraphs 10 and 11: adopted.

After paragraph 11:

— amendment 8 by Mr Colleselli, on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

The rapporteur requested a split vote.

11(a): adopted,

11(b): adopted by electronic vote.

Paragraph 12: adopted.

Explanations of vote:

Mr Bombard spoke.

Parliament adopted the following resolution:

⁽¹⁾ The rapporteur spoke on all amendments.

RESOLUTION

on the application of Council Directive 75/268/EEC on mountain and hill farming and farming in certain less-favoured areas

The European Parliament,

— having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgetary Control and the opinion of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 1-444/83),

— having regard to the special report of the Court of Auditors on the application of Council Directive 75/268/EEC on mountain and hill farming and farming in certain less-favoured areas ⁽¹⁾,

A. whereas the Committee on Budgetary Control should not limit its task to examining the technical regularity of financing operations, but should fulfil its responsibilities towards the 260 million citizens of the EC by also examining the viability of the individual measures and programmes considered,

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 358, 31. 12, 1980.

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- B. whereas the Directives on agricultural structures are due to expire at the end of 1983 and whereas decisions will then need to be taken on the Community's future policy on agricultural structures,
 - C. having regard to the extremely limited resources of the EAGGF, Guidance Section, and hence the need for the most effective use possible to be made of available funds, particularly in view of the prospective enlargement of the Community to include countries with very weak agricultural structures,
 - D. whereas policy on agricultural structures must be more closely geared in future to regional policy in general (see Barbagli report Doc. 1-61/83 and others).
1. Points out that, pursuant to the third paragraph of Article 189 of the EEC Treaty, the Directive, the legal instrument of agricultural structures policy in less-favoured regions, is binding upon each Member State to which it is addressed in respect of the result to be achieved, but the choice of form and methods is left to the discretion of the national authorities;
 2. Notes that, despite the introduction of specific measures, the objectives of Council Directive 75/268/EEC are so loosely worded that they are interpreted differently both by the various Community institutions and by the individual Member States;
 3. Draws attention, therefore, to the differences which may arise between the agricultural, demographical or ecological objectives and the actual effects of the Directive and calls therefore for a careful examination of this problem;
 4. Agrees with the Court of Auditors' finding that there are considerable variations from one Member State to another with regard to the interpretation of the Directive and the monitoring of aid granted under it; the accuracy of certain data, such as the exact area of land farmed, cannot always be guaranteed, and in other cases the basis for assessing eligibility is only very approximately correct, or the method of calculating entitlement is so inaccurate that the number of potential beneficiaries was considerably increased but notes with satisfaction that there has been a considerable improvement in the intervening years;
 5. Recommends that, when the Directives on agricultural structures come up for revision at the end of 1983, Directive 75/268/EEC be amended to enable more specific — and hence more effective — use to be made of the extremely limited resources available for agricultural structures policy; consideration should also be given at that juncture to the advisability of continuing to attempt to attain all the various objectives of Directive 75/268/EEC by means of a *single* Directive;
 6. Emphasizes that, when the forthcoming revision takes place, this Directive also should be much more fully integrated into regional policy strategies designed to promote self-sustaining regional development;
 7. Points out that it has not proved possible up to now to apply Directive 75/268/EEC fully in all Member States; in countries with the most severe agricultural structure problems, particularly, administrative or technical problems and shortages of State funds have prevented the rapid implementation of the measures;
 8. Reaffirms that any assessment of the results of the Directive must take account of social and environmental realities in the areas in which it is applied, and above all of the wide variety of such realities in the various Community countries;
 9. Therefore believes that the Directive should continue to be applied flexibly rather than rigidly in order to take account of the differences in existing situations;
 10. Recognizes that the large number of beneficiaries under Directive 75/268/EEC makes a watertight monitoring system more difficult to achieve, but does not consider that it is sufficient to hold on-the-spot checks at intervals of five years, as this does not allow errors to be corrected quickly enough;

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11. Stresses that the Commission's unlimited power to carry out checks in the Member States also applies to national measures taken to implement a Directive, and moreover believes that the Commission has a duty to carry out checks in such cases;

12. Takes up, in this connection, the question raised by the Presidents of the national parliaments on the extent to which the exchange of information or cooperation between national parliaments and the European Parliament could be to their mutual advantage;

13. Calls on the Member States to monitor more closely the implementing measures for which they are responsible and to comply with their obligation to report any irregularities immediately to the appropriate departments of the Commission, so that the latter might take steps to ensure that funds are applied correctly;

14. Considers the overall results of the Directive to be positive despite the initial difficulties;

15. Points out that farms located in the areas covered by the Directive very often have no valid alternative to beef and milk production; this aspect must therefore be taken into account when defining Community measures for the surplus sectors;

16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Court of Auditors, the Council, the Commission and the Governments of the Member States.

20. **Draft supplementary budget No 2 for 1983 —
Draft general budget for 1984**

Mr Pottakis, *President-in-Office of the Council*, introduced the draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1984 and the draft supplementary budget No 2 of the European Communities for the financial year 1983.

In view of the time, the debate was adjourned at this point. It would be continued the following morning.

21. **Agenda for next sitting**

The President announced the following agenda for the sitting on Tuesday, 13 September 1983:

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.:

— topical and urgent debate (announcement of the motions for resolutions tabled),

— continuation of the introductions to:

— the draft supplementary budget No 2 for 1983,
— the draft general budget for 1984,

— Spinelli report on the European Union.

5.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.:

— topical and urgent debate (announcement of the list of subjects to be included),

— Question Time (questions to the Council and the Foreign Ministers).

(The sitting was closed at 8.05 p.m.)

H.-J. OPITZ
Secretary-General

Pieter DANKERT
President