Improving the efficiency of agricultural structures

1996/0213(CNS) - 17/09/1996

While awaiting Parliament’s opinion, the Council held an initial debate on the matter in question on the basis of preparatory work undertaken by the Special Committee on Agriculture. The Council debates served to highlight the wide range of views held on each of the Commission’s proposals. However, it was also possible to identify areas of agreement and a number of convergent positions. In this respect: - there was agreement on the need for raising the intervention limits as a short-term measure; - there was also broad support for the proposal on intervention for grazing animals; - several delegations were concerned about the Commission’s proposal on the reduction of aid for arable crops and took the view that in any case such a reduction should be subject to a time limit, since the budget problem was too; - several Member States were of the opinion that the Commission’s proposal, which sought to delay payments to the oilseed sector, would be an appropriate measure; - there was also broad support for introducing measures aimed at promoting beef consumption.