Banana, fruit and vegetables sector

1995/0084(CNS) - 07/09/1995

The report was unanimously approved. As regards the amendments proposed by the Commission, the rapporteur was firstly of the opinion that the exclusion of fig bananas from the common organization for bananas, due to their limited production and their status as an exotic or luxury product, and as a result the inclusion of fig bananas in the COM for fruit and vegetables, raised a number of problems which related particularly to their definition and identification. He was therefore in favour of maintaining the status quo, though considered, on the other hand, that there were grounds for introducing the criterion of "actual import". The rapporteur also subscribed to the Commission's criteria which sought to reduce the reference period for the allocation of operators' import duties and, in this regard, he proposed fixing this period to a single calendar year instead of two (as proposed by the Commission). The report took the view that the COM's operating balance could be considered as a positive one. In this context the rapporteur stressed the importance of maintaining the preferences granted to ACP countries and also called on the Commission to present again a proposal for a programme of diversification and technical aid in favour of the banana-producing countries of Latin America, as the Council had never adopted the previous proposal. Finally, the report held that the complaints of the United States' administration, which threatened retaliatory measures, were unjustified.