Sugar beet: authorisation for Portugal to grant aid to sugar beet producers to 2001/2002 marketing year

1997/0222(CNS) - 28/10/1997

The rapporteur, Mr Juan Luis COLINO SALAMANCA, approved the Commission proposal authorizing Portugal to grant national aid, reducing gradually, to its sugar beet producers over a period of four marketing years from 1997/98 to 2000/2001, with maximum aid of ECU 2.5 million for the next marketing year. However, he considered the Commission proposal to abolish all national aid authorized for Portugal unjustified. According to the rapporteur, it is inappropriate to introduce at this stage a negative provision which risks blocking any negotiation within the Council of Ministers on the level of national quotas. In addition, any common organization of the markets in the sugar sector will need to be re-examined by the year 2001. Consequently, the rapporteur calls on the Commission to transmit to the Council and Parliament a report on the operation of the national aid system by the end of the 2001/2002 marketing year and, in the light of the outcome, for the granting of such aid to be extended if necessary.