

Common organisation of the markets in the sugar sector

2000/0250(CNS) - 27/02/2001

The committee adopted the report by Joseph DAUL (EPP-ED, F) amending the proposal under the consultation procedure. The committee essentially sought to reinstate the existing rules, arguing that the existing system, which would expire on 30 June 2001, had worked satisfactorily for over 30 years and should be extended, unchanged, until 2006, as agreed at the Berlin Summit in 1999. It felt that the proposals to cut the production quota by 115,000 tonnes a year and abolish the reimbursement of storage costs were unjustified and that to introduce these changes for two years and then propose further, drastic changes in 2003, when the Commission reviewed the cereals, oilseeds and dairy sectors, would be hugely disruptive to producers and the processing industry and would not benefit consumers. Thorough studies were needed before any changes were considered in 2006. The committee also objected that the proposals would undermine the EU's commitments to its ACP and Indian sugar producers, and stipulated that any new preferential agreements with third countries should be made consistent with those commitments. It also pointed out in this context that the costs stemming from preferential import schemes should be charged to the correct budget, i.e. the development aid budget and not the EAGGF.