Financing of the common agricultural policy

2000/0204(CNS) - 26/07/2000 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to present a proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation 1258/1999/EC on the financing of the common agricultural policy as well as various other regulations relating to the CAP. CONTENT : in order to improve the transparency of budget presentation and accounting, the draft text recasting the Financial Regulation proposes to consider the "negative expenditure" currently used in agriculture as "earmarked revenue". Negative expenditure is the result of a complicated budgetary mechanism and is divided up into five categories: - amounts recovered as a result of fraud or irregularities (EUR 60 million in 1999); - corrections to advances made on the basis of Article 13 of the rules on budgetary discipline (EUR 126 million in 1999); - any "profit" which may arise from sales from public storage (EUR 286 million in 1999); - the additional levy on surplus milk production (EUR 498 million in 1999); - the financial consequences of clearance-of-accounts decisions (EUR 606 million in 1999). The financial perspective should not take account of budget items financed by earmarked revenue within the meaning of Article 4 of the Financial Regulation currently in force. Therefore, negative expenditure can be replaced without affecting budget neutrality. The proposal for recasting the Financial Regulation therefore provides for two categories of earmarked revenue; earmarked revenue defined in the Financial Regulation itself and earmarked revenue provided for in specific Regulations. The purpose of this proposal therefore is: - to amend Regulation 1258/1999/EC to specify that all recoveries of expenditure financed by the EAGGF Guarantee Section and all other sums levied, collected or withheld by the Member States are deemed to be earmarked revenue to be used exclusively to finance EAGGF Guarantee Section expenditure; - to specify that the additional milk levy provided for in Regulation 3950/92/EC and the credit balances in public storage accounts referred to in Regulation 3492/90/EEC be regarded as earmarked revenue; - to ensure that securities forfeited under the CAP are no longer deducted from EAGGF Guarantee Section expenditure as laid down in Article 2 of Regulation 352/78/EEC, but are regarded as earmarked revenue. In making the amendment to Regulation 1258/1999/EC, the opportunity should also be taken to introduce provisions to take account of the new "committee procedure" decision (Council Decision 1999/468/EC of 28 June 1999 laying down the procedures for the exercise for implementing powers conferred on the Commission).