# Austria: list of less-favoured farming areas within the meaning of Directive 75/268/EEC

1995/0060(CNS) - 06/03/1995 - Legislative proposal

The proposal for a directive was aimed at establishing the list of less-favoured farming areas in Austria, in accordance with Article 2(1) of Directive 75/268/EEC. According to Declaration No 37 of Austria's Act of Accession to the European Union, the boundaries of the areas listed should be established in line with the acquis communautaire and, in the case of Austria, which is a mountainous country, on the basis of criteria similar to those used in Germany, Italy and France. In accordance with these different criteria, the Austrian Government proposed to the Commission a list of municipalities (Gemeinden) which were liable to appear on the Community list of less-favoured areas. These areas meet the requirements laid down in Article 3 (3) (4) and (5) of Directive 75/268/EEC concerning: - mountainous areas where the altitude and the slope shorten the growing season and limit the possibilities of using machinery (Article 3(3)); - less-favoured areas from an agricultural point of view and characterized by land with low productivity and low agricultural incomes (Article 3(4)); - less-favoured areas affected by specific handicaps (small areas, hills, poor hydrographic situation) where farming needs to be continued to conserve the countryside (Article 3 (5)). The application of these indices results in a 68.6% coverage of Austria's agricultural area (AA). A breakdown of the classified area is contained in the Annex. The areas with specific handicaps do not exceed 4% of Austria's total surface area. Moreover, for 27 municipalities which border mountainous areas, it was proposed that only the section of the municipality meeting the relevant criteria should be included, representing an eligible area of about 26,000 hectares. The amount of expenditure set aside for the compensatory allowance for farmers in these areas would be included in the overall amount allocated to Objective 5a within the framework of the distribution of appropriations among Objectives as approved by the Commission.