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

1995/0138(CNS) - 08/06/1995 - Legislative proposal

This proposal for a directive aimed to draw up a list of less-favoured agricultural areas in Finland, in accordance with Article 2(1) of Directive 75/268/EEC. According to Declaration No 37 of the Act of Accession of Finland to the European Union, the listed areas should be defined in accordance with the acquis communautaire and, in the case of Finland, taking account of the northern latitude as a permanent natural handicap affecting the country's agricultural production. On the basis of these criteria, the Finnish Government had proposed to the Commission a list of communes (Kunta-Kommun) which were liable to appear on the Community list of less-favoured areas. The areas in question complied with the specifications laid down in Article 3(3), (4) and (5) of Directive 75/268/EEC, namely: - mountainous areas, insofar as the difficult climatic conditions caused by their northern latitude resulted in a much shorter growing season (Article 3(3)); - less-favoured areas from an agricultural point of view, characterised by poor productivity and low agricultural incomes (Article 3(4)); - less-favoured areas affected by specific handicaps (small area, hilly ground, poor hydrographic situation, coastal islands, frontier zones, etc.) where farming had to be continued to conserve the countryside (Article 3 (5)). The application of these indices corresponded to 85% of the country's agricultural land. The areas with specific handicaps did not exceed 4% of Finland's surface area. The amount of Community expenditure set aside for the compensatory allowances for farmers in these areas would be included in the overall amount allocated to Objectives 5a and 6 of the Structural Funds.