Interim assessment of reform of the common organisation market COM under Agenda 2000

2001/2127(INI) - 30/05/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted an own-initiative report drafted by Francesco FIORI (EPP-ED, Italy) on the mid-term review of CAP reform. (Please refer to the document dated 13/05/02.) Reflecting its concern about the drop in farming, Parliament called for an incomes policy to keep farmers on the land throughout the EU. It also felt that the Community preference principle should be reaffirmed and updated in the light of new expectations as regards higher standards of food safety, the traceability of foodstuffs and economic and social sustainability. The European market, however, should be opened to agricultural products from the poorest countries, which should receive help in fulfilling the prevailing requirements in the EU with regard to food safety, animal welfare and environmental protection. Moreover, the principle of eco-conditionality, which is already incorporated into some areas of the CAP, should be systematically extended to all production sectors, given that all economic sectors should be involved in the protection of the environment. The EU needs to make major efforts to lessen its dependency on imports of vegetable proteins by introducing an eco-conditionality measure which rewards producers who introduce oilseed crops as breakcrops in their rotation systems, since over recent years there has been a tendency to practice single-crop farming, which is detrimental to the structure, biological integrity and fertility of soil and to efforts to combat parasites and plant diseases. Turning to specific sectors, Parliament considered that the market will require increased vegetable protein supply following the ban on meat-and-bone meal. There should be no further reduction in the cereals intervention price since stocks have fallen to historic lows. At its current value, the intervention price does not guide the market but rather has the effect of deploying a scarcely used safety net. Payments for durum wheat and other products for which market instabilities have arisen must be evaluated and adjusted when necessary, to avoid jeopardising the profitability of crops in traditional growing areas, which should, however, not be extended to new regions.