2004 enlargement and agriculture: successful integration in the new member states for the common agriculture policy

2002/2059(INI) - 13/06/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on its own-initiative report drafted by Karl Erik OLSSON (ELDR, Sweden) on enlargement and agriculture. (Please refer to the document dated 27/05 /02.) Parliament welcomed the Commission's communication and called it a realistic proposal for a negotiating package. On the question of direct payments, it pointed out that an excessive influx of cash could result in low productivity with existing structures being maintained, discourage investment in production or alternative activities and lead to capital formation in the value of property, which in turn results in higher costs and so does not benefit agriculture. When laying down the reference production levels eligible for aid and production quotas for the applicant countries, the Commission should ensure that those countries own levels of self-sufficiency in products subject to quotas does not fail, so that the imposition of quotas does not result in an increase in the net imports of those countries and so that they may have their quotas adjusted in the event of increased domestic consumption. On rural policy, Parliament felt that the structural changes in the rural areas of the CEECs must be supported and alternative employment opportunities must be promoted in order to guarantee the integrity of the countryside and to prevent depopulation. It should be possible to use the special form of support for subsistence farming as temporary income support for farmers who wish to switch to another form of rural enteprise and not confine it to those wishing to develop farming business. The Commission should draw up and implement rural development measures in the applicant countries on the basis of the Leader+ programme. Finally, reform of the CAP must ensure that the objective of agriculture based on the European model is achieved and must guarantee safe and healthy food, a viable countryside and respect for animals and nature.