Basic information

1994/2115(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Fruit and vegetables: changes to and the future of the Community policy **Subject** 3.10.06.01 Fruit, citrus fruits 3.10.06.02 Vegetables	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	ARIAS CAÑETE Miguel (PPE)	08/09/1994
Council of the European Union			

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
27/07/1994	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1994)0360	Summary
14/09/1994	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
31/01/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
31/01/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0015/1995	
15/02/1995	Debate in Parliament		
17/02/1995	End of procedure in Parliament		
06/03/1995	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1994/2115(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AGRI/4/05899

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0015/1995 OJ C 056 06.03.1995, p. 0004	31/01/1995	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0071/1995 OJ C 056 06.03.1995, p. 0159-0184	17/02/1995	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1994)0360	27/07/1994	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0054/1995 OJ C 102 24.04.1995, p. 0033	25/01/1995	

Fruit and vegetables: changes to and the future of the Community policy

1994/2115(COS) - 27/07/1994 - Non-legislative basic document

The Commission has submitted this communication outlining a reform to strengthen and improve this common organization of the market (COM) in order to instigate a broad debate on the future of the fruit and vegetable sector. The Commission feels that the main objective of the reform should be to help and encourage Union producers to build on their advantages (quality products, mainly intended for chiller cabinets and often highly perishable, a dynamic approach and ability to adapt to a changing market, the production-related services which they are able to offer, such as environmental protection, the healthy and diversified range of products which they offer the consumer). On balance, the present COM has proven its worth. However, its positive factors - market orientation, decentralized management, pooled supply - need to be strengthened. The Commission's objective is to re-orientate budgetary expenditure in order to give preference to positive measures which help to build the future and incorporate environmental concerns. In this sense, it proposes combining various types of measures: - better pooling of supply in order to respond to increasingly concentrated distribution; - a new system for managing short-term surpluses and gradually eliminating structural surpluses; - a more balanced ratio between fresh and processed produce; - redefinition of standardization; - a specific approach to resolve problems which arise for certain "small" products at Community level which are important at regional or local level, - stronger controls. The Commission will ensure that the Community preferences authorized in the conclusions of the Uruguay Round are safeguarded when these conclusions are implemented.

Fruit and vegetables: changes to and the future of the Community policy

1994/2115(COS) - 17/02/1995 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mr Miguel Arias Canete on changes to and the future of Community policy in the fruit and vegetable sector. It endorsed the Commission's analysis that, on balance, the COM had worked well but was sure that the Commission was aware of the recurrence of old problems which arose at regular intervals in this sector without any solutions being adopted. Parliament also: - felt that the Commission communication did not contain an adequate guarantee as regards maintaining the level of producers' incomes, financial solidarity or the Community preference; - reaffirmed that the sector could only be maintained and developed in the face of the constant erosion of the Community preference if the public sector introduced incentives and adequate financial support; - felt that the Commission should implement a programme to improve statistics on the production and importation of fruit and vegetables in the Community; - called for an end to the endless dismantling of the Community preference, especially as regards imports from countries with which the Union has concluded or intends to conclude preferential commercial agreements; - called for support for fresh "small products" for processing, which were very important at regional or local level (dried fruit, asparagus etc.), and were not protected by market support mechanisms or entry prices; - felt that regional plans were needed in order to rationalise the sector and could, by way of exception, include direct aid or compensation for lost income; - felt that standardisation in the place of origin should be compulsory and should apply in all Member States and to all products. Standardisation should be accompanied by better labelling of fresh and

processed fruit; - called for the Commission to recognise, define and encourage interprofessions with a regional or sectoral (product) basis; - stressed the need, in relation to external aspects, for a system which the Commission could use to calculate the average price per origin and per product at representative market level; in addition, rules should be defined with a view to introducing a system for auditing the accounts and checking the invoices of enterprises; - felt that there should be a more flexible definition of processed products based on the same initial product; - felt that Community regulations were needed stating which plant health and other products were allowed during the production, canning and processing of fruit and vegetables and admissible residue limits; - called, given the Union's lack of quality juices, for support measures for citrus juices to be maintained and for new support measures for fresh juices (especially apple, pear, peach and apricot juice) to be introduced; - called for a real Community inspection agency and for the deterrent value of sanctions to be stepped up; - called on the Commission to ensure that the COM promoted the diversity of species and current varieties of fruit and vegetables.