Basic information

1996/2233(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Quality policy for agricultural products and agri-foodstuffs **Subject** 3.10.02 Processed products, agri-foodstuffs	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	MULDER Jan (ELDR)	16/04/1996

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
03/02/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	B4-0028/1996	
15/11/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/07/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
21/07/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0280/1998	
09/10/1998	Debate in Parliament		
09/10/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
26/10/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/2233(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AGRI/4/08426

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary

Non-legislative basic document		B4-0028/1996	03/02/1996	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0280/1998 OJ C 313 12.10.1998, p. 0007	21/07/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0597/1998 OJ C 328 26.10.1998, p. 0220-0232	09/10/1998	Summary

Quality policy for agricultural products and agri-foodstuffs

1996/2233(INI) - 09/10/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Jan MULDER (ELDR, NL) on quality policy for agricultural products and agri-foodstuffs, Parliament took the view that farmers should derive their income as far as possible from the market and that European quality policy could make a positive contribution to the conservation of the countryside and regional development. It acknowledged that the concept of 'quality' was a subjective one which could not be defined in a uniform way; it was of the opinion that European quality policy could not replace, but only complement and coordinate, existing national, regional and local quality policy. It was essential to support the development of organic farming practices, and Parliament called for a rapid extension of the rules governing this type of production to animal products. In particular, it called for the introduction of a European logo for organic products as a uniform means of drawing consumers' attention to the organic production methods of products. The introduction of such a logo should be accompanied by a European promotion programme. Bearing in mind the growth in quality marks, there was a need to adopt European legislation on the labelling of such products, in order to guarantee transparency for consumers. Quality marks recognised at a European level must satisfy strict and precise conditions, including voluntary participation in the scheme, technical details available for public inspection and independent monitoring, by a State body or an independent agency acting on the instructions of the State, at the cost of the interested parties. Parliament called on the Commission to: -evaluate procedures for granting Community protection to designations of origin and other traditional specialities and, if necessary, accelerate them provided that the relevant conditions were completely met; -study the potential for a European quality mark for the relevant agricultural products and foodstuffs, as a complement to existing national or regional quality marks; -do more to promote processing of quality products by means of knock-on financing; -ensure that better prices were paid for quality products and that producers benefited from special tax provisions, incorporating incentives, and organise promotion funds to encourage citizens of the European Union to consume more quality products; -uphold European quality policy in the context of the WTO and guarantee the quality and compliance with health standards of imported agricultural products on the European market, through equivalence agreements with commercial partners; -direct the market instruments provided for in sectoral COMs and structural provisions so as to assign priority to products which bore a quality mark recognized at European level. Parliament called for the establishment of a third European quality category based on environmental criteria in the broad sense of the term, and the adoption of a European code of good agricultural practice. This third category should simultaneously meet consumer demand for environmentally compatible foodstuffs and promote environmentally friendly farming. The label should be based on life cycle analyses of the product concerned which were valid for the various production methods employed in the EU.