Basic information

2001/2274(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Sustainable agricultural policy, agrarian reform and rural development for self-reliance in developing countries **Subject** 5.05 Economic growth	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
DEVE Development and Cooperation	KHANBHAI Bashir (PPE-DE)	27/11/2001

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	RODRÍGUEZ RAMOS María Soraya (PSE)	23/01/2002

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
17/01/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/09/2002	Vote in committee		
23/09/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0316/2002	
23/10/2002	Debate in Parliament		
24/10/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0519/2002	Summary
24/10/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
11/12/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/2274(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	DEVE/5/15651

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	**Committee**	**Reference**	**Date**	**Summary**
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0316/2002	23/09/2002	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0519/2002 OJ C 300 11.12.2003, p. 0444-0616 E	24/10/2002	Summary

Sustainable agricultural policy, agrarian reform and rural development for self-reliance in developing countries

2001/2274(INI) - 24/10/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted its own-initiative report drafted by Bashir KHANBHAI (EPP-ED, UK) on agricultural policy and development. Parliament called for the progressive elimination of trade and tariff barriers and increased access to markets for developing countries in order to allow them to benefit from common prosperity and achieve economic growth. It acknowledged that food safety standards mean strict checks are required at the EU's external borders. However, this must not hinder trade with developing countries. The EU should offer financial and technical support to help them meet those standards. Whilst the European Union has considerably improved developing countries' access to its markets, Parliament regretted the EU subsidised produce dumped on developing country markets which disrupts domestic agricultural production, as with beef in Nigeria and milk powder in Tanzania and Jamaica. In such cases, each country has a right to protect producers by means of tariff barriers. Parliament went on to regret the major increase in agriculture subsidies from the USA's Farm Bill involving subsidies amounting to USD 180 billion over ten years. Fair trade between the North and the South entails paying a fair price for the resources and agricultural products of the developing countries. This price must reflect the internal and external costs, whilst respecting minimum criteria governing the working conditions and wages of the workforce and environmental protection. Parliament pointed to the fact that, whilst certain farm sectors in some developing countries have benefited from preferential trading agreements such as the ACP-EU Sugar protocol, these countries may not benefit from added value either through processing basic commodities or from diversification of their production. The opening up of EU markets to agricultural products from developing countries should be effected gradually and in tandem with the reform of the CAP support system along multifunctional lines. Parliament further asked that the EU enhance international efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought through the implementation of the action programmes envisaged under the UNCCD. A key plank of development and conflict prevention policy should be to support countries which undertake lawful agrarian reform and defend small family holdings. Finally, Parliament called for technical assistance for developing country farmers for improved conservation and distribution of the vast diversity of existing seeds, while ensuring that control remains in the hands of peasant farmers themselves.