

RESOLUTION

OF THE SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

of 16 February 2012

calling upon the Government of the Republic of Poland and the European Parliament to actively promote the simplification of the common agricultural policy, competitiveness and progress, and to introduce equal and non-discriminatory rules for the distribution of direct payments to farmers between EU Member States

The Senate of the Republic of Poland expresses its concern over the European Commission's legislative proposal concerning the system of direct payments to farmers (COM (2011) 625). The proposed measures aim at maintaining the rules for the distribution of funds allocated for direct payments to farmers, which are unfair and discriminatory against certain Member States, including Poland, after 2013. Direct payments are to be distributed not on the basis of objective criteria identical for all Member States but on the basis of the so-called historical references, determined by the levels of subsidies received by Member States in the past. The European Commission proposed only minor changes to the discriminatory distribution scheme, while maintaining, as a principle, the unfair historical criteria.

The Senate of the Republic of Poland is of the opinion that the proposed distribution scheme leads to the upholding of the grossly unfair differences in the amounts of direct payments to farmers in particular Member States, which are detrimental to farmers in certain Member States, particularly in the new Member States, including Poland. The retention of the unfair scheme of direct payments shall infringe the principle of non-discrimination between the EU citizens – in this case: farmers – on grounds of nationality (Article 18 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union), and moreover, shall violate the prohibition of discrimination between producers within the Union (Article 40 (2) of the Treaty). The Senate also underlines that according to the EU law, the differences between various agricultural regions, and not between Member States, may be taken into consideration in developing the Common Agricultural Policy (Article 39 (2a) of the Treaty). The above-mentioned discrimination is a threat to the future of agriculture in the Member States affected by such discrimination, including agriculture in Poland.

The Senate of the Republic of Poland urges the Government to strongly oppose the European Commission's legislative proposal, which is unfair and discriminatory against Polish farmers and which threatens the future of Poland's rural areas. The Senate calls upon the Government to take all possible political and legal measures aimed at:

- simplifying the common agricultural policy,
- allocating the resources to encourage competitiveness and progress; and
- providing a fair and non-discriminatory scheme of direct payments to farmers, based on equal rules for all Member States.

The Senate calls upon the European Parliament to provide a scheme of direct payments which does not create discrimination between farmers on grounds of nationality.

The Resolution is subject to promulgation in the Official Journal of the Republic of Poland "Monitor Polski".

MARSHAL OF THE SENATE

Bogdan BORUSEWICZ