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GIFT &amp; EXCHANGE

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## REPORT

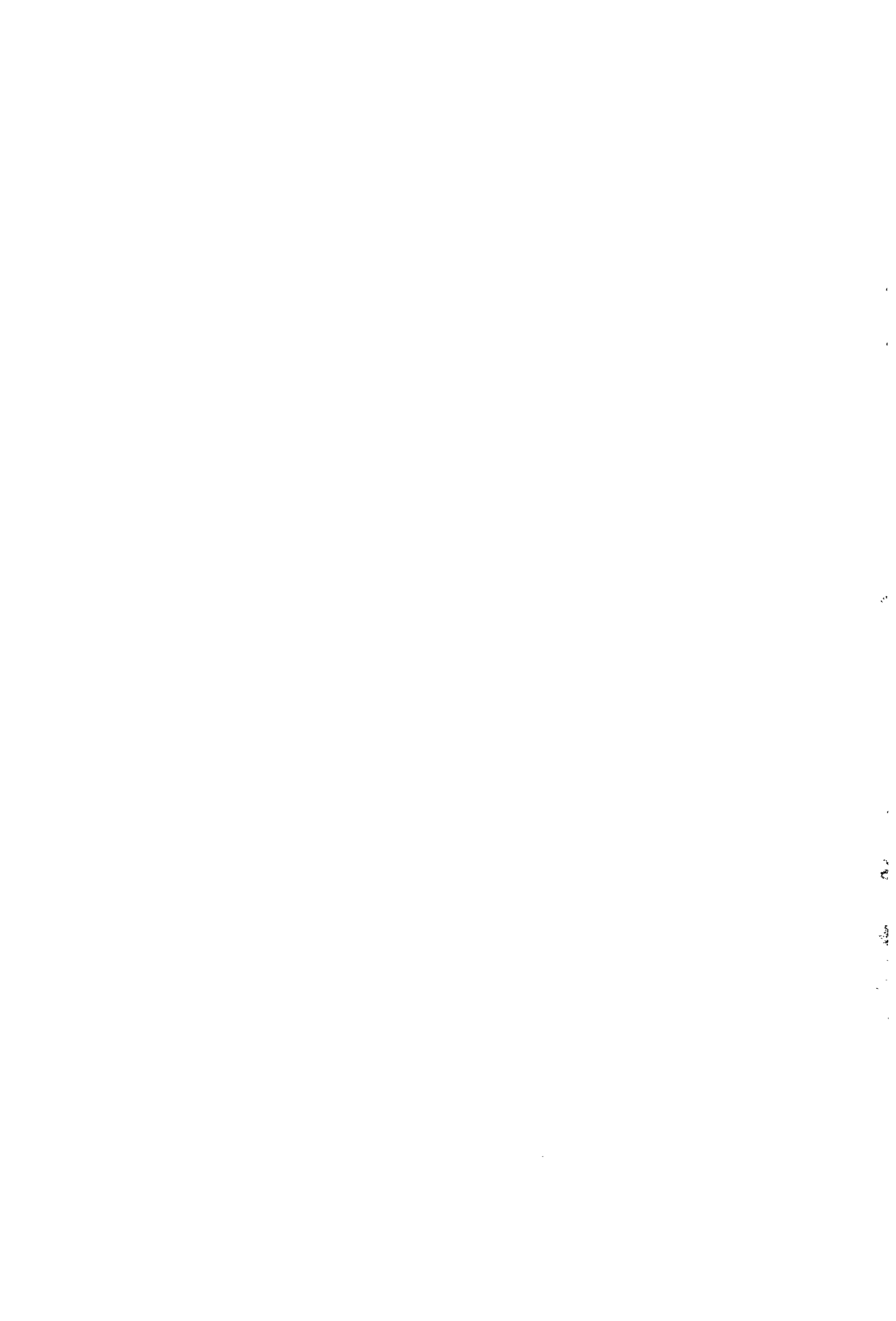
drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

on the proposals from the Commission of the European  
Communities to the Council (COM(85) 759 final -  
Doc. C 2-166/85) for

- I. a regulation establishing a common measure for the acceleration of agricultural development in certain less-favoured areas of France where beef cattle are reared
- II. a regulation establishing a common action for the promotion of agriculture in certain less-favoured areas of Northern Italy
- III. a regulation establishing a common action for the promotion of agriculture in the Scottish islands off the northern and western coasts with the exception of the Western Isles (Outer Hebrides)

Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Claude PASTY

PE 104.228/fin.  
Or.Fr.



By letter of 24 January 1986, the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the Treaty establishing the EEC, to deliver an opinion on the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for:

- I. a regulation establishing a common measure for the acceleration of agricultural development in certain less-favoured areas of France where beef cattle are reared
- II. a regulation establishing a common action for the promotion of agriculture in certain less-favoured areas of Northern Italy
- III. a regulation establishing a common action for the promotion of agriculture in the Scottish islands off the northern and western coasts with the exception of the Western Isles (Outer Hebrides)

On 17 February 1986, the President of the European Parliament referred these proposals to the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning for their opinions.

At its meeting of 5 February 1986, the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food appointed Mr Pasty rapporteur.

By letter of 5 March 1986, the Council requested that urgent procedure as provided for in Rule 57 of the Rules of Procedure, be applied.

The committee considered the Commission's proposals and the draft report at its meeting of 11 March 1986.

It decided by 25 votes to 5 with 6 abstentions to recommend to Parliament that it approve the Commission's proposals subject to the following amendments.

The Commission has not expressed any opinion on these amendments.

The committee then adopted the motion for a resolution as a whole by 25 votes to 5 with 6 abstentions.

The following took part in the vote: Mr TOLMAN, chairman; Mr EYRAUD, vice-chairman; Mr PASTY, rapporteur (and deputizing for Mr Fanton); Mrs ANDRE (deputizing for Mr Garcia), Mr BATTERSBY, Mr BORGO, Mr BOUTOS (deputizing for Mr Mouchel), Mrs CASTLE, Mr CLINTON, Mr COLOM I NAVAL (deputizing for Mr Colino Salamanca), Mr DALSSASS, Mr DEBATISSE, Mr ELLES (deputizing for Mr Howell), Mrs EWING (deputizing for Mr Musso), Mr GARCIA RAYA (deputizing for Mr Vazquez Fouz), Mr GATTI, Mr HAPPART, Mrs JEPSEN, Mr McCARTIN (deputizing for Mr Mertens), Mr MacSHARRY, Mr MADEIRA, Mr MAHER, Mr MARCK, Mrs MARTIN, Mr MIRANDA, Mr NAVARRO VELASCO, Mr NEWENS (deputizing for Mr Morris), Mr F. PISONI, Mr N. PISONI, Mr PROVAN, Mr ROMEOS, Mr T. ROSSI, Mr SIMMONDS, Mr THAREAU, Mr VERBEEK (deputizing for Mr Christensen) and Mr WOLTJER.

The Committee on Budgets will present its opinion orally.

The Committee on Regional Policy and Regional Planning has not been able to submit its opinion in time.

The report was tabled on 11 March 1986.

The deadline for tabling amendments to this report will be fixed by the sessional services.

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The Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food hereby submits to the European Parliament the following amendments to the Commission's proposals and motion for a resolution:

I. COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

establishing a common measure for the acceleration of agricultural development in certain less-favoured areas of France where beef cattle are reared

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Text proposed by the Commission  
of the European Communities

Amendments tabled by the Committee  
on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Amendment No. 1

9th recital

- whereas in the regions concerned farmers derive additional income from the management of woodlands; whereas forestry measures should be carried out and shelter belts should be planted, mainly in connection with joint land development measures;

- whereas in the regions concerned farmers derive additional income from the management of woodlands; whereas forestry measures should be carried out (six words deleted), mainly in connection with joint land development measures;

Amendment No. 2

Article 1(4)(ca) new

(ca) (new)

- measures to improve the placing on the market and marketing of the animals listed in subparagraph (b) above;

Amendment No. 3

Article 1(4)(d)

(d) forestry measures, mainly in conjunction with the measures referred to in (a), including joint facilities for the management of woodlands belonging to agricultural holdings and the planting of shelter belts for the protection of agriculture;

(d) forestry measures, mainly in conjunction with the measures referred to in (a), including joint facilities for the management of woodlands belonging to agricultural holdings (remainder deleted);

Amendment No. 4

Article 5(2)

2. during the third and fifth years the Commission shall report on the progress of the common measure. Before the six-year period has expired, the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, shall decide whether the measure should be continued.

2. during the third and fifth years the Commission shall report on the progress of the common measure. Before the six-year period has expired, the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission and Parliament's opinion, shall decide whether the measure should be continued.

Amendment No. 5

Article 6(2), first indent

- 900 ECU per hectare for drainage of pastures over a total area of 45 000 hectares and

- 900 ECU per hectare for drainage (two words deleted) over a total area of 45 000 hectares and

II. COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

establishing a common action for the promotion of agriculture in certain less-favoured areas of Northern Italy

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Amendment No. 6

Article 2(1) (c) (new)

(c) the creation of small hydro-electric power plants and other plants for alternative energy sources

Amendment No. 7

Article 2(3)(a)

(a) a lasting increase in the size of parcels so that, in general, they increase by a factor of at least three;

(a) a lasting increase in the size of parcels through purchase, lease and exchanges so that, in general, they increase by a factor of at least three;

III. COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

establishing a common action for the promotion of agriculture in the Scottish islands off the northern and western coasts with the exception of the Western Isles (Outer Hebrides)

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Amendment No. 8

new recital to be entered before  
the last recital

new recital

- whereas, following the success of the Western Isles Integrated Development Programme (IDP), established under Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1639/81, every effort should be made to coordinate this common measure with the interventions of other Community funds and policies, notably with interventions under the Social and Regional Funds, but also with expenditure under the Community's transport, fisheries, energy and environmental policies;

Amendment No. 9

Article 1(3), third indent

- the improvement of the agricultural infrastructure,

- the improvement of the agricultural infrastructure including soil improvements (lime and drainage) and the improvement of animal husbandry,

Amendment No. 10

Article 1(3), new indents to be inserted after the third indent

- operations for improving the marketing and processing of agricultural products,
- operations for improving agricultural advisory services, including on-farm training for farmers,

Amendment No. 11

Article 1(3), fourth indent

- investments in landing-stages and other shore facilities for the use of agricultural communities involved in pluriactivity,

- investments in landing-stages and other shore facilities for the use of agricultural communities involved in pluriactivity, and for the inshore fisheries industry and the development of aquaculture,



A

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

closing the procedure for consultation of the European Parliament on the following proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council:

- I. Regulation establishing a common measure for the acceleration of agricultural development in certain less-favoured areas of France where beef cattle are reared
- II. Regulation establishing a common action for the promotion of agriculture in certain less-favoured areas of Northern Italy
- III. Regulation establishing a common action for the promotion of agriculture in the Scottish islands off the northern and western coasts with the exception of the Western Isles (Outer Hebrides)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposals from the Commission to the Council (COM(85) 759 final),
- having been consulted by the Council on 24 January 1986 pursuant to Article 43 of the Treaty establishing the EEC (Doc. C 2-166/85),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (Doc. A 2-2/86),
- having regard to the result of the vote on the Commission proposals,

A. whereas farm incomes in some northern areas of the Massif Central and bordering areas that are highly specialized in the rearing of suckling cattle have followed a sharp downward trend as a result of the disorganization in the meat market which has been further aggravated by the slaughtering of dairy cattle following the application of quotas,

- B. whereas it is unfair to make stock-breeders in these less-favoured areas of the Community suffer the effects of stabilization of the dairy market especially since, by specializing in beef cattle, they have been instrumental in preventing any increase in dairy surpluses in the Community in the past 20 years,
- C. having regard to the inadequacy of the market support measures for products specifically from those areas and the inadequacy of the restructuring measures so far taken by the Community to remedy the income disparities that, far from diminishing, have increased considerably,
- D. whereas continuation of the above trends leads to a process of desertification that threatens the ecological and human equilibrium of the areas concerned,
- E. whereas effective reduction of the regional disparities of the areas concerned requires massive action by Community and national funds so that local communities do not have to bear the very high costs caused by desertification of those areas, which is not only harmful to the environment but likely to make it extremely difficult to exploit the economic and tourist possibilities,
- F. having regard to the report by Mr COLLESELLI on special Community measures to revive agriculture and forestry in the mountain and dolomite area of the region of Veneto through the recovery of land subject to hydro-geological degeneration<sup>1</sup>,
- G. having regard to the motion for a resolution by Mrs EWING and others on the crisis in agriculture in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland<sup>2</sup>, to the resulting report by Mr PROVAN<sup>3</sup> and to its resolution of 9 March 1983<sup>4</sup>,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No. C 10, 16.1.1984

<sup>2</sup> OJ No. L 197/6, 20.7.1981

<sup>3</sup> OJ No. C 96/35, 11.4.1983

<sup>4</sup> Doc. 1/1177/82

- H. having regard to the resounding success of the Western Islands Integrated Development Programme (IDP) which was established under Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1939/81<sup>1</sup> as a pilot project for coordinated Community intervention in sparsely populated peripheral areas with a high dependence on agriculture,
- I. having regard to the job-creation record and potential of aquaculture in peripheral maritime regions and to its environmental suitability in these areas,
- J. having regard to the geographic location of the selected islands, to their high annual rainfalls and to their attendant requirements of expenditure on soil improvements, including liming and drainage,
- K. having regard to the selected islands' dependence on the livestock sector,

#### FRANCE

1. Endorses the gist of the proposal for a regulation presented by the Commission pursuant to Article 18 of Council Regulation No. 797/85 establishing a common measure for the acceleration of agricultural development in certain less-favoured areas of France where beef cattle are reared;
2. Regrets however that the common action envisaged lacks ambition both as regards the scale of the financial resources proposed which are not commensurate with the extent of the structural inadequacies noted, and as regards the content of the measures proposed which overlook the essential aspect of more effective placing on the market of the products of specialized cattle breeding;

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<sup>1</sup> Doc. 1/1021/81

3. Considers that there is no need to plant shelter belts given the wooded nature of the area covered by the common measure, that it has not been called for by the French national or regional authorities, that there were no grounds for the Commission's services to include it in the proposal for a regulation, and that it should be deleted;

#### NORTHERN ITALY

4. Endorses the proposal for a regulation establishing a common action for the promotion of agriculture in certain less-favoured areas of Northern Italy; points out however the importance of investments for the utilization of alternative energy sources and the lasting improvement of parcels through purchase, lease and exchange;

#### THE SCOTTISH ISLANDS

5. Welcomes the Commission's proposals, however inadequate and overdue, for an agricultural development programme in selected Scottish islands;
6. Regrets, however, that the geographical scope of the draft regulation has been restricted to selected Scottish islands when numerous parts of the Scottish mainland - principally in the Highlands and Islands Development Board area - are equally if not more disadvantaged; takes the view that new proposals should be forthcoming for the severely disadvantaged areas of Scotland which have been omitted from the present package,

7. Considers that the scope of the draft regulation has been too narrowly defined and calls on the Commission to extend the list of actions proposed under Article 1.3. of the draft Regulation to include the following additional activities:
  - measures to promote improvements in processing and marketing including support for cooperative ventures;
  - support for aquaculture;
  - support for soil improvements, including liming and drainage;
  - measures to promote improvements in animal husbandry;
  - support for improvements in agricultural advisory services, including training for farmers;
8. Considers, in view of the proven success of the Western Isles IDP, that every effort should be made to coordinate the Scottish islands programme with other Community funds and policies and suggests, in this respect, that the programme should not only be coordinated with interventions under the Regional and Social Funds, but also with expenditure under the Community's Transport, Fisheries, Energy and Environmental Policies;
9. Regrets that the Council of Ministers has reached agreement in principle on the above proposal for a regulation without waiting for the opinion of the European Parliament, which could not deliver a detailed opinion by the deadline it was given;
10. Protests once again against this violation of Parliament's rights, and calls on the Council to take into account the amendments adopted by Parliament before reaching a final decision;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution, as Parliament's opinion, to the Council and the Commission.