

RESOLUTION
of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland
of 25 April 2012

on supporting the Government of the Republic of Poland and calling on the European Parliament to take action for simplifying the common agricultural policy, for competitiveness and growth as well as introducing equal and non-discriminating principles of allocating funds for direct payments for farmers in the European Union Member States

The Sejm of the Republic of Poland is concerned over the legislative proposals put forward by the European Commission as regards the system of direct payments for farmers (COM (2011) 625). These proposals are aimed at maintaining after 2013 the rules of allocation of funds earmarked for direct payments for farmers which are unfair and discriminating for certain Member States, including Poland. This allocation would be made not on the basis of objective criteria, which are the same for all Member States, but on the basis of so-called historical criterion defined by the amount of funds received by Member States in the past. The European Commission has proposed only a slight decrease in the discriminating differences in funds allocation, but has in principle maintained the unfair historical criterion.

The Sejm of the Republic of Poland deems that the proposed system of funds allocation leads to maintaining grossly unfair differences in the amount of direct payments for farmers in the Member States, which are to the detriment of farmers in some Member States, especially the new Member States, including Poland. Maintaining the unfair system of direct payments infringes the principle of non-discrimination of EU citizens – in that case, farmers – on grounds of nationality (Article 18 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union) and, furthermore, breaches the ban on discrimination between producers within the Union (Article 40(2) of the Treaty). The Sejm also stresses that, in view of EU law, in working out the common agricultural policy, one may take into account the disparities between agricultural regions rather than disparities between Member States (Article 39(2a) of the Treaty). The above discrimination causes a threat to the future of agriculture in Member States affected by this discrimination, including agriculture in Poland.

The Sejm of the Republic of Poland calls on the Government to firmly object to the legislative proposals of the European Commission, which are unfair, discriminate against Polish farmers and pose a threat to the future of Polish agriculture.

The Sejm supports the Government in taking all possible political and legal actions aimed at:

- simplifying the common agricultural policy,
- earmarking funds for competitiveness and growth and
- ensuring a fair and non-discriminating system of direct payments for farmers, based on equal principles for all Member States.

The Sejm of the Republic of Poland calls on the European Parliament to ensure a system of direct payments that would not discriminate against farmers on grounds of nationality.

The Resolution shall be published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Poland "Monitor Polski".

Marshal of the Sejm: Ewa Kopacz