



Resolution 905 (1988)¹

Part-time farming - par of agriculture's future

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Considering the increasing occurrence of part-time farming in Europe, by which is meant a situation where the farmer and his wife spend a considerable part of their work-time in non-farm gainful employment ;
2. Recalling the Assembly's Conference "European Agriculture 2000", held in Switzerland in 1986, and [Recommendation 1049 \(1987\)](#), indicating to governments of Council of Europe member states new ways to meet the challenges facing the industry ;
3. Aware that policies in the past -as priority was above all given to increasing production and the size of farms -often acted to discourage part-time, as distinct from full-time, farming ;
4. Recognising however that, at the present time of overproduction and great financial difficulties, especially of small and medium-sized farmers, agriculture pursued on a part-time basis may be the only way in which a farmer and his wife will be able to support their family and stay on their land ;
5. Believing that part-time farming, especially in disadvantaged regions, can have a number of advantages for society, such as less intensive production leading to reduced surpluses and less strain on the environment, less dependence of farmers on outside financial support, and a more populated countryside favouring regional development and tourism,
6. Calls on the governments of member states and the European Community :
 - 6.1. to modify their legislation as well as their regional, agricultural and other policies, so as to facilitate the inevitable and on the whole positive development towards more part-time farming, especially in regions disadvantaged by distance or by the quality of the land ;
 - 6.2. in particular, to make sure that any legal or other provisions discouraging part-time, as opposed to full-time, farming, are removed, for instance as regards compensation for production or other financial assistance, as well as the right to acquire and farm land ;
 - 6.3. to pay particular attention, in this context, to ways of easing the heavy burden imposed on women in part-time farming, as they are often asked to take on additional responsibilities on the farm when their husbands engage in alternative employment ;
 - 6.4. nevertheless to make sure that the above types of measures do not result in discrimination against full-time agriculture, or encourage "dilettante" farming to the detriment of land maintenance and the interests of regular farmers ;
7. Requests its President to forward this resolution to the European Parliament, to the Commission of the European Communities and to OECD.

1. See [Doc. 5820](#), report of the Committee on Agriculture, Rapporteur : Mrs Hammarbacken. Text adopted by the Standing Committee, acting on behalf of the Assembly, on 30 June 1988.

