

Resolution 911 (1989)¹

Necessary reform of European agricultural policies

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Recalling its [Recommendation 1049 \(1987\)](#) on European Agriculture 2000 and its recent Conference "European Agriculture as an Industrial Supplier - A Way out of the Crisis ?", in which new vistas were opened up for Europe's troubled farming sector ;
2. Welcoming recent changes in agricultural policies in Council of Europe member states, including those carried out in the European Community, going in the direction suggested in the above-mentioned recommendation ;
3. Convinced, however, that these policies must undergo further radical change in order to meet the increasingly acute necessity of reducing over-production, protecting the environment, maintaining family farming and preserving a living countryside ;
4. Believing that such change is also necessary in order to avoid the present destructive effect of European agricultural policies on agriculture in the developing world, where farmers are forced on a large scale to abandon their land because of subsidised food imports from the North,
5. Calls on Council of Europe member states to shape their future agricultural policies so as :
 - 5.1. to encourage farmers to limit production to what markets can absorb, for example through the increased use of systems of graduated price support and a greater reliance on income aid to farmers ;
 - 5.2. to discourage the excessive use of input factors which, although they increase yields, also endanger the environment, such as artificial fertilisers, pesticides and animal-raising methods which cause excessive concentration of natural manure ;
 - 5.3. to prohibit in particular the use of hormones for fattening and breeding purposes ;
 - 5.4. to seek agreement, among all Council of Europe member states, on a control and monitoring policy for the use of antibiotics for therapeutic purposes ;
 - 5.5. to make the extent of animal production on farms conditional upon the land area used, so as to reduce over-production and permit traditional, family-type agriculture to replace "factory farming" ;
 - 5.6. to encourage crop rotation, as opposed to monoculture, and less intensive farming methods, especially in environmentally sensitive areas ;
 - 5.7. to lay greater emphasis on more natural forms of animal husbandry ;
 - 5.8. to promote more ecological land management at all levels, including research and advisory services to farmers ;
 - 5.9. to provide farmers with supplementary means of supporting themselves and their families, for instance by producing renewable raw materials for industry and energy ;

1. Assembly debate on 30 January 1989 (18th Sitting) (see [Doc. 5983](#), report of the Committee on Agriculture, Rapporteur : Mr Bösch ; and [Doc. 5991](#), opinion of the Social, Health and Family Affairs Committee, Rapporteur : Mr De Vicente). Text adopted by the Assembly on 30 January 1989 (18th Sitting).



- 5.10. to ensure, in food trade with the Third World, that developing countries are allowed to build up their domestic agriculture in line with the food security requirements of their populations ;
- 5.11. to encourage favourable conditions for long-term capital investment in agriculture in these changing times, for the benefit of future generations ;
- 5.12. to promote education on the conflicting issues facing agriculture, so as to assist the understanding of young people coming into agriculture.