Resolution 647 (1977)[1]

Evolution of agricultural structures in Europe

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Having taken note of the report on the evolution of agricultural structures presented by its Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 3905) ;

2. Referring to previous texts adopted in a similar context, viz. in particular Recommendations 476 (1967) and 576 (1970), on agricultural policies in Europe, as well as Recommendation 541 (1969), on the financing of structural adaptations in agriculture ;

3. Reaffirming its view that agriculture constitutes an essential part of the economies of member states ;

4. Considering that sound agricultural structures constitute a prior condition to the pursuance of rational agricultural production and marketing policies ;

5. Recognising the progress achieved during the last decades in this field in virtually all member countries, but not convinced that the development recorded up to now has been such as to yield the optimum result as far as social benefits are concerned ;

6. Reiterating its view, however, that structural adaptations in agriculture are closely linked with economic developments in other sectors ;

7. Considering further that, in implementing policies for the improvement of agrarian structures, the motivation stemming from personal initiative and family structures is indispensable,

8. Believes that there is a constant need for efforts in the field of information of farmers on the long-term economic prospects of production and outlets in the various branches, taking into account international trade ;

9. Believes, further, that there is still room for improvement as regards the co-ordination between various policy measures designed to achieve easier re-allocation of land for agricultural use, whenever economic and social considerations make this desirable ;

10. Recognises that there are a number of positive aspects connected with investments in structural improvements being encouraged by subsidies towards loan interest rates, while at the same time being aware of the risks inherent in such subsidisation ;

11. Emphasises that the solution to structural problems in agriculture depends to a great extent on the implementation of suitable regional development schemes ;

12. Believes that a further improvement in agrarian structures in member states would facilitate their contribution- however modest- to solving the world food problem ;

13. Urges its members to make suitable approaches to their governments along the line laid down in the text of this resolution.

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1. Assembly debate on 25 January 1977 (21st and 22nd Sittings) (see Doc. 3905, report of the Committee on Agriculture). Text adopted by the Assembly on 25 January 1977 (22nd Sitting).