

**COVER NOTE**

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from           Secretariat  
to             The Convention

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**Subject :       Contribution by Mrs Hjelm-Wallén, member of the Convention:**  
**- “On the future Agricultural Policy of the European Union”**

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The Secretary-General of the Convention has received the contribution annexed hereto  
from Mrs Hjelm-Wallén, member of the Convention.

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CONTRIBUTION BY Mrs LENA HJELM-WALLÉN  
MEMBER OF THE CONVENTION

ON THE FUTURE AGRICULTURAL POLICY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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- *New and modernized objectives for the Unions agriculture policy needed.*
- *With new objectives, legislative procedure can be used for decisions on agricultural policy.*
- *Abolition of division between compulsory and non-compulsory expenditure possible if budget ceilings set by council.*

New objectives for the agricultural policy (Clause 85)

The objectives for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) are adapted to the situation that prevailed in Europe in the 1950s. Today, the agricultural policy is changing from production support towards measures targeted to environmental and rural development. In order to achieve an agricultural policy that takes account of the changing conditions and a changing world, a new policy direction should be reflected in the objectives for the Union's agricultural policy.

For these reasons I propose that the Convention replaces the current objectives by new and modern objectives.

The objectives for the future policy should:

- focus on *society's and consumer demands*. Food production should take place on market terms and at the same time take account of society's requirements related to the environment, animal welfare, animal health and the need for safe food. In order to strengthen consumer protection and the protection of public health and to ensure safe food, specific objectives for these areas should be introduced
- bring in *environmental consideration*. Long-term food production must be based on sustainable use of natural resources, minimise negative environmental effects of agriculture, and preserve and strengthen its positive effects on the environment, including a rich and varied agricultural landscape
- see agriculture as part of an integrated *development of the rural areas*. The policy should move from support for agricultural production to a policy for rural development.

Sustainable development and coherence between the different policies and objectives of the Union must be a priority. The EU agricultural policy must in particular be compatible with the objective to promote *global food security* through sustainable agricultural and food production. Developing countries' agriculture is adversely affected by elements of CAP distorting trade and preventing access to markets. EU agricultural policy must not prevent an expansion of these countries' agriculture, thereby their economies in general, a development that would improve food security in these countries.

The agricultural sector should remain an area of shared competence between the Union and member states. The proposal for new objectives does not specify the appropriate level to carry out different

types of measures or the appropriate financing. This should be discussed at a later stage, taking into account the principle of subsidiarity.

With these proposed new objectives for the agricultural policy, the role of the European Parliament should be strengthened by the use of the suggested legislative procedure, based on co-decision, also within the field of agriculture.

Alternative suggestion: Procedures for decision-making under the current objectives for the agricultural policy (Clause 89)

If, for any reason, the Convention is unwilling to change the objectives for the agricultural policy, then unfortunately also the large volume and the detailed character of legislation concerning the CAP will have to remain intact. If this would be the case, I conclude that the legislative powers to a large extent should have to remain within the Council.

However, with the current objectives preserved there is a need to further strengthen the coordination and long-time perspective in the implementation of the policy. The implementation would benefit from the use of multi-annual framework programmes, guiding the institutions in their work during a certain period of time. I propose that the European Parliament and the Council share responsibility for adopting such programmes.

#### The CAP -budget

These proposals should be seen in the context of the proposal on the future budgetary system that I presented together with Mr. Gijs de Vries (CONV 651/03). Regarding the annual budget process we proposed that, if there are sufficient safeguards for budget discipline – such as a Financial Perspective set by the Council – one could abolish the distinction between compulsory and non-compulsory expenditure, and introduce co-decision.

The measures suggested in the multi-annual framework programmes must of course fall within the multi-annual budget ceilings set by the Council.

## AMENDMENT FORM

### Suggestion for amendment of Clause 85 (ex Article 33) in CONV 618/03

By Mrs Lena Hjelm-Wallén

Status : - Member

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#### Clause 85 (ex. Article 33)<sup>1</sup>

1. The objectives of the Union policy<sup>2</sup> on agriculture shall be:
  - a) to satisfy the society's and the consumers demands for a sustainable, safe and ethic food production while meeting high standards of animal welfare, animal health, environmental consideration and sustainable use of resources, and
  - b) to contribute to a viable rural society.
2. The measures taken by the Union shall be compatible with the objective to promote global food security<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> As a consequence of the suggested objectives a number of changes would need to be made in ex articles 32–38.

<sup>2</sup> This does not constitute a standpoint on whether the measures should be carried out and financed on union level or national level.

<sup>3</sup> Developing countries' agriculture is affected negatively by elements of CAP that distort trade and prevents access to markets. EU agricultural policy must not prevent them from expanding agriculture and thereby also their economies in general, which will improve food security in these countries.

## AMENDMENT FORM

### Suggestion for amendment of Clause 89 (ex Article 37) in CONV 618/03

By Ms Lena Hjelm-Wallén

Status : - Member

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#### Clause 89 (ex Article 37)

1. The European Parliament and the Council, in accordance with the legislative procedure, shall adopt a law establishing a multi-annual framework programme setting up the activities of the Union.
  
2. For the implementation of the multi-annual framework programme the Council, on a proposal from the Commission, shall adopt by a qualified majority the legislative acts and the recommendations necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the agricultural policy of the Union. The Council shall act after consulting the European Parliament.