



*Parlamentul României*  
*Senat*

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Bucharest, 7th December 2011

Courtesy translation

**OPINION**

**of the ROMANIAN SENATE, on the  
Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for  
rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**

**COM(2011) 627 final**

**The Senate of Romania** has checked the compliance with the subsidiarity and proportionality principles of the **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) – COM (2011)627 final**, according to the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon (Protocol no.2).

Taking into account the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development, **the Plenum of the Senate**, during its session of the 6th December 2011, has found that the examined proposal is in compliance with the principle of subsidiarity and the principle of proportionality. Nevertheless, following the analysis of the content of the proposal and in the perspective of the negotiations to come on the adoption of the reform package of the common agricultural policy, the Senate considers as necessary a further analysis of the following issues:

- a) Provisions leading, on the one hand, to a more restrictive level of obligations for the beneficiaries of the organic farming measure and, on the other hand, to a lower level of the compensatory payment, taking into account the fact that the beneficiaries of the measure adopt the specific practices of organic farming on voluntary basis and that the relevant mandatory minimum standards should be the same as for the conventional agriculture;
- b) Possibility to consider public beneficiaries as eligible for support granted to the forest owners affected by restrictions imposed by the implementation of Nature 2000, as regards the compensatory payments;
- c) Possibility to revise the ex-ante conditionalities, such as the advisory capacity, mentioned in Annex IV, considering that Romania, as new Member State, did not have the obligation to implement certain provisions referred to in Annex IV;

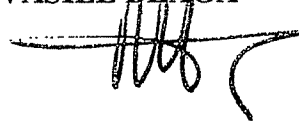
d) Possibility to increase levels of public support (50%) specified in Annex I for investments in rural infrastructure as well as leaving to the Member State the possibility to define the farms to be restructured;

e) Possibility to consider intermediate enterprises as eligible for support, in order to ensure the continuity of intervention for this type of beneficiaries;

f) Possibility to establish an aid scheme for setting up agricultural farms, having areas up to 25 ha, regardless the age of the property owner, being able to use the syntagma of active farmer to define the beneficiary of this aid scheme. This new scheme would increase the employment in rural area and revitalize it, eliminating the eventual discriminations related to age.

**PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**

**VASILE BLAGA**

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned below the printed name.