



European Parliament
Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development
Rue Wiertz, 60
1047 Bruxelles

Brussels, 8 September 2003

Concerning: draft opinion on part III of the Draft Constitution with regard to the articles on the CAP.

Dear Member of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development,

The *Green Eight*, the eight leading environmental organisations active at EU level, **welcome** the draft opinion prepared by Mr Joseph Daul for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development on the draft European Constitution, particularly the rewording of the article referring to the objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy. There is an urgent need to update the outdated objectives of the CAP which no longer reflect the problems and concerns faced by today's agricultural sector, nor the priorities of Europe's citizens.


We have formulated similar proposals for changing the Conventions' text (see Green Eight publication "Towards a Green EU Constitution" (enclosed)). We are of the opinion that our proposals could be combined with the ones proposed by the rapporteur, as they explicitly introduce the notion that the agricultural sector has to contribute to the **improvement of the quality of the environment and nature**, thus bringing it closer to the requirements for environmental policy integration as laid down in the general objectives of the EU (article 3 in Part I of the draft Constitution). We also set down in the text a more explicit obligation to **conserve the diversity of Europe's cultural landscapes**.

We hope that you as Committee or as individual members will be prepared to include in your further work the objectives we formulated for the final version of the Parliament's opinion.

The G8 further regret that the draft opinion does not refer to the international impacts and responsibilities of the Union's agricultural policy. It is essential that the CAP also takes account of sustainable development in developing countries. We have made proposals for article III-123 (ad 2.d.) (see p.21) and article III-124 (in par. 2) (see p.23).

While we realise we are approaching you at a late stage, we trust that you will consider our proposals for further improvements and find ways to introduce them in the plenary debate at the end of this month.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a long horizontal line that tapers to the right.

John Hontelez
Secretary General
European Environmental Bureau

Also for: BirdLife international European Community Office, Climate Action Network Europe, European Federation for Transport and Environment, Friends of the Earth Europe, Friends of Nature International, Greenpeace European Unit, WWF European Policy Office.