

Communication from the Commission to all farmers concerning set aside from 2009

(2008/C 186/06)

The Commission wishes to draw the attention of Community farmers to the Health Check proposal (COM(2008) 306 final ⁽¹⁾) to abolish compulsory set aside as from 2009 onwards. The proposal was adopted by the Commission on 20 May 2008 and it is currently under discussion in the Council, the European Parliament and the other European Institutions.

The proposal is the logical follow-up of Council Regulation (EC) No 1107/2007 ⁽²⁾ fixing the rate for compulsory set aside at zero in 2008.

Under the proposal, farmers will not be obliged to set aside land from production in order to be entitled to the amount fixed by the set-aside entitlements. The set-aside entitlements will be turned to normal entitlements. Farmers could already benefit from the measure as from their autumn 2008 and spring 2009 sowings.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2008) 306: Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing common rules for direct support schemes for farmers under the common agricultural policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers; proposal for a Council Regulation on modifications to the common agricultural policy by amending Regulations (EC) No 320/2006, (EC) No 1234/2007, (EC) No 3/2008 and (EC) No [...] /2008; proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

⁽²⁾ Council Regulation (EC) No 1107/2007 of 26 September 2007 derogating from Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003 establishing common rules for direct support schemes under the common agricultural policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers, as regards set aside for the year 2008 (OJ L 253, 28.9.2007, p. 1).