

2. In order to implement rural development, which constitutes the second pillar of the CAP, the Council has decided that, apart from the traditional agricultural market measures, the EAGGF Guarantee Section should finance rural development programmes, four of which (early retirement, compensatory allowances, afforestation and agri-environment) cover the entire Union. However, six other measures (investment in agricultural holdings, young farmers, training, forestry, processing and marketing, adaptation and diversification of rural areas) which are also financed by the EAGGF Guarantee Section are, in the case of the regions covered by Objective 1 (including Galicia), the responsibility of the EAGGF Guidance Section. The other Structural Funds also contribute.

3. Current regulations on rural development provide for the amalgamation of all measures in this area, with the Member State responsible for choosing to implement those which will be most effective for the future development of rural areas.

4. The Council informs the Honourable Member that on 15 July 2002 it conducted a preliminary debate on the mid-term review of the CAP following the Commission's presentation of its communication.

(2002/C 309 E/089)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1060/02

by Alexandros Alavanos (GUE/NGL) to the Council

(17 April 2002)

Subject: Prevention of military operations against Iraq

The reference by the President of the USA to the 'axis of evil' and the persistent talk of imminent military operations against Iraq have alarmed public opinion in the Member States. Since any new war in Iraq will also directly affect European interests in the region, what common position has the Council adopted in response to this likely eventuality and what initiatives has it taken to avert further military operations against Iraq?

Reply

(30 September 2002)

The Council remains convinced that any solution as regards Iraq must involve the complete, and unconditional implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions, in particular Resolutions 687, 1284 and 1382, and that Iraq must comply with its disarmament obligations. The Council is monitoring closely the meetings with the UN Secretary-General and supports his efforts. In fact, the Iraqi Minister for Foreign Affairs, Naji Sabri, has met the UN Secretary-General on two occasions, on 7 March and 1 and 2 May. The UN Secretary-General felt, at the end of the last meeting, that rapid progress had been made, bearing in mind in particular the fact that the Iraqi Minister had been accompanied by senior officials who were disarmament experts and that genuine dialogue had taken place on the application of the Resolutions and cooperation with UNMOVIC. The next meeting [is to be held in about one month, and the EU hopes that it will yield positive, tangible results] ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ To be updated by corrigendum if this reply has not reached the European Parliament by the date in question.

(2002/C 309 E/090)

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1061/02

by Stavros Xarchakos (PPE-DE) to the Council

(17 April 2002)

Subject: Interchange of Data between Administrations (I.D.A.)

The Council of Ministers of Transport and Communications of the European Union met on 25 March 2002 and adopted a decision on the 'interchange of data between administrations' (I.D.A.). The news bulletin Euractiv reported on 26 March 2002 that this decision also involves the transfer of data between Member States and non-Member States (web page www.euractiv.com).