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CAP Health Check in full

draft legislation to institute the CAP Health Check reforms was published by the Commission in May.

The Commission has put her weight behind the package of measures intended to remove restrictions on agricultural production so that they can respond to increasing demand for food.

The Commission wants the Health Check settled by the end of 2008, so that discussions on the budget for 2009 onwards can take place as planned in an atmosphere of certainty.

Below are the main changes proposed to agricultural support under the CAP Health Check, which are directly addressed in the Health Check, because they are committed until 2015. The Commission has reviewed at that time and the present focus is, as it has been since the Health Check, on a 'soft landing' for dairy farmers come that date. Quotas were increased for 2009 and the proposal is to increase them by a further 1% per annum from 2009 to 2013.

Focus on genuine farmers

It has been noted by the EU that an unacceptably large number of claimants do not have farming as their main objective. A new policy is therefore proposed to exclude companies or firms 'whose principal ...objective does not consist of exercising an agricultural activity'.

Expansion of Pillar 2 funding

The Rural Development Regulation (Council Regulation 1698/2005) is to be amended to oblige Member States to provide in their rural development plans from 2010 to assist farmers to meet the new challenges of climate change/renewable energy/water management and

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