



JAN MULDER, ALDE
By Greet Goverde

He is in the budget Committee but well versed in agriculture since he attended agr. College Wageningen. He used to be in Comagri.

*I brought up **farmers' incomes** - would they be served by further liberalisation?*

Within ALDE and the Dutch (conservative) liberals he has always stood up for farmers' incomes, even though that was not appreciated. So he is against capping. And against equal income support in different countries, for buying hectares in the Netherlands is much more expensive than in Lithuania for instance. And the income support is quite legitimate in Europe because we have more (environmental etc.) rules.

How about more regulation, and supply management, as in Canada?

Then you don't need income support.

Mulder: No: there is too much government interference here instead of too little!

A large majority here is against quotas. Europe is very different from Canada, 500 million inhabitants instead of not even 50 million, it wouldn't work. Europe is too big for regulation.

(p.s. gg: see 'proposal for a new European food and agr. Policy'. I will send him the link. It is quite possible, if there is a political will).

I brought up the French proposal: give the first 50 ha. more EU money than the following hectares

He didn't know about that yet, he is going to look at it.

He would like to do such things from the 'national reserve'(national agr. Budget, instead of EU) and use it for specific sectors that are in trouble, e.g. in our country 'carbohydrate' potatoes.

Export subsidies: It is good they have largely been abolished, they give us a bad name in the rest of the world. And the European public is far too critical. But why do they never complain about the U.S.? They also have them, though they call them by a different name.

Greening

He is against the 7% rule. Fortunately the proposals are to postpone it, to phase it in gradually . And fortunately the rules are 'wider', now: tending hedges e.g. is also included.

I brought forward the proposal of our arable farmers: raise the organic level in the soil on ALL farms in the EU. Mulder: 'a good idea'. But I don 't know if it is on the table.