

Some reactions to the adoption of our resolution during the 35th international congress in Cracow

16.09.08

The Luxembourgish member of the European Parliament Claude TURMES (Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance) takes up contact with the International Office



Claude Turmes

17.09.08

Acknowledgement of receipt by the Slovakian Government (**see Appendix**)

End of September 08

The ecological party in Luxembourg (Déi Greng) contacts the Luxembourgish allotment garden federation and a meeting is fixed for November 11th, 2008

14.10.08

Acknowledgement of receipt by the cabinet of the President of the European Commission José Manuel BARROSO (**see Appendix**)

20.10.08

Answer of the Luxembourgish parliamentary group of the socialist party (LSAP) (**see Appendix**)

21.10.08

Deposit by Claude TURMES of a Parliamentary question to the European Commission (**see Appendix**)

22.10.08

Answer by Madam Marie-Josée JACOBS, Minister for Family and Integration in Luxembourg (**see Appendix**)

23.10.08

Answer of the cabinet of Mrs A. VASSILIOU, Member of the European Commission (**see Appendix**)

3.11.08

Answer from the Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Development (**see Appendix**)

18.11.08

Answer by the Commission to the parliamentary question of Mr Claude TURMES (**see Appendix**)

20.11.08

Parliamentary question of Mr Henri KOX, member of Parliament (The Green party) to the Ministers of Interior and Environment. (**see Appendix**)

17.12.08

Joint answer dated December 17, 2008 by the Minister of Environment Protection and the Minister of Interior and Territorial Planning concerning the Parliamentary question no. 2979 of Mr. Henri KOX, member of Parliament. (**see Appendix**)

18.02.09

Meeting with Mad am Jutta HAUG, German member of the European Parliament (Socialist group)

Following to a demand of the allotment gardeners of Westfalen-Lippe, Achim FRIEDRICH, president and Theresia THEOBALD, director, of the allotment garden federation from Germany, Werner BOLDER, president, Werner HEIDEMANN, director and Marianne BOLDER of the allotment gardeners from Westfalen Lippe as well as Malou WEIRICH, secretary general of the Office International met Mrs Jutta HAUG.

The problems of the recognition of the allotment garden movement on European level were discussed. It was considered to create a network of members of Parliament with the aim to integrate ideas stimulating the allotment garden movement into European texts.





Igor Federič
Head of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic

Mr.
Malou Weirich
Secretary general
Office International du Coin de Terre et
des Jardins Familiaux a.s.b.l.
20, Rue de Bragance
L-1255 Luxembourg

Bratislava 17 September 2008
No. 7612/2008/KVUV

Dear Mr. Weirich,

we would like to inform you, that the letter which you have addressed to Government Office of the Slovak Republic, was forwarded to the Ministry of environment of the Slovak Republic, according to material completeness.

Yours faithfully,

Translation

Madam the Secretary General,

The President of the European Commission Mr. José Manuel BARROSO has charged me to thank you for your letter dated September 29th, 2008 by which you have transmitted him the resolution adopted during the 35th international congress of allotment gardens having taken place in Cracow from August 28th till August 31st.

This resolution entitled “the future of the allotment gardens” in Europe has held all his attention.

Yours sincerely

Clara Martinez Alberola

Translation

Madam,

I have well received your letter dated October 16th, 2008 and thank you for this letter.

The documentation that you have sent me has held all my attention. I have additionally transmitted copy for information to all the members and associates of the socialist parliamentary group.

Yours sincerely

Ben Fayot

Translation

WRITTEN QUESTION P-5875/08
by Claude Turmes (Verts/ALE)
to the Commission

Subject: Promoting allotment and leisure gardening in the EU

At the 35th International Congress of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners' Federation, federations from 14 European countries called on the EU institutions to do more to promote the development of allotment and leisure gardens in Europe. The process of removing gardeners from their allotments, and the lack of legal protection, are very serious problems for allotment and leisure gardeners in the EU.

I therefore call on the Commission to take up a position on the following specific demands:

The extent of development of allotment and leisure gardening in the EU varies considerably. The 'Office International du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux a.s.b.l.' estimates that it involves almost 3 million family members throughout Europe, though this figure is distributed very unevenly among the individual Member States. What concrete initiatives does the Commission propose to protect allotment and leisure gardens in the Member States and to create the political and legal conditions for the preservation and development of these gardening operations? What should be done to encourage future generations to take up allotment and leisure gardening ?

Half of the world's population lives in towns; food prices have recently shot up and are likely to remain at a high level. Allotment and leisure gardening, by cultivating agricultural produce near towns, can make a concrete contribution to the environment, bio-diversity and food security, enhancing physical and mental health and quality of life, improving the incomes of socially disadvantaged groups and promoting social cohesion. What can be done to improve support for allotment and leisure gardening through targeted EU subsidies?

Translation

Mr President

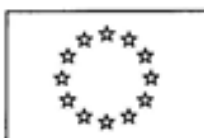
I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated October 16th, 2008.

I have noted with great interest the priorities which the Office International du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux has fixed in its resolution dated August 30th, 2008 approved during the 35th international congress of allotment gardens in Cracow.

The Ministry of Family and Integration will take them into consideration during the realization of its policies.

Yours sincerely

Marie-Josée JACOBS, Minister for Family and Integration



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate C - Public Health and Risk Assessment
C4 - Health determinants

SANCO

Luxembourg, **23 OCT. 2008**
SANCO C4/MH/GG/AP/sm D(2008) 340634

Mrs Malou WEIRICH
Secretary General
Office International
du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux a.s.b.l.
20, rue de Bragance
L-1255 Luxembourg

Subject: 35th international congress: Resolution

Ref: Your letter of 29 September 2008

I would like to thank you very much for your letter. We recognise physical activity as an important aspect of physical as well as mental health.

I encourage your organisation to continue to advocate for healthy and balanced lives at the EU level and I invite you to continue your actions across the European Union.

Yours sincerely,

Michael HÜBEL
Head of Unit

c.c.: Cabinet Vassiliou Archives, Mrs. Despina Spanou, Mrs. Bliznakova Iglia

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AGRI D/26465 03/11/08
EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Directorate G. Horizontal aspects of rural development
G.1. Consistency of rural development

Brussels,
G1/PM D(2008) 31938
Cal A 2184

Subject: Resolution of the 35th International Congress of Allotment and Family Gardens held in Poland from August 28-31 2008

Dear Ms Weirich,

Thank you for your letter of 29 September 2008 to Commissioner Fischer-Boel who has asked me to reply on her behalf. I thank you also for sending the resolution of the 35th International Congress of Allotment and Family Gardens held in Poland and approved on 30 August 2008.

I note the outcomes of the Congress, particularly the call for the European institutions to create the political and legal conditions for the preservation and the development of allotment gardens. I believe that allotment and family gardens can play an important role in ensuring a high quality of life in urban areas.

Yours sincerely,



Jean-Luc DEMARTY
Director General

Ms Malou WEIRICH – Secretary General
Office International du Coin de Terre et des Jardins Familiaux
20 rue Bragance
L-1255 Luxembourg

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Translation

P-5875/08FR

Answer given by Mrs. Fischer Boel
on behalf of the Commission
(18.11.2008)

The Commission considers that the gardens, both allotment gardens and private gardens, can constitute a determinant element for the maintenance of a high quality of life, in addition to their unquestionable contribution to the strengthening of the social cohesion and the safeguarding of biodiversity, especially in urban regions. The Commission therefore is of the opinion that it is important to assure their protection and if possible to stimulate their development. However this is an area that is first of all of the competence of the member States, due to the principle of subsidiarity.

As far as the financial support by the European Community for allotment gardens and leisure gardens in the urban areas is concerned, the member States have the possibility to work out projects that can be co-financed by the cohesion policy on basis of the relevant dispositions of a sustainable urban development worked out by the European fund for regional development¹.

The fighting against poverty and exclusion constitutes one of the aims of the Lisbon strategy. However it is the task of the member States to determinate which are the best means to reach this aim. As far as the allotment garden is concerned (and generally speaking all forms of agriculture that are needed for peoples subsistance) it cannot be questioned that it can contribute to increase the income of people from less favoured social classes.

¹ JO L 210/7 from July 31st, .2006, article 8.

Translation

**Mr Lucien Weiler
President of the House of Parliament
Luxembourg**

Luxembourg, November 20th 2008

Dear Mr President,

In execution of our internal regulation I take the opportunity to address two parliamentary questions to the Minister of Interior and the Minister of Environment protection.

Today, approximately 20 allotment garden sites exist on the territory of the Grand-Duchy. The allotment garden plots are cultivated by individual persons, affiliated to the Luxembourg allotment garden federation, and who don't pursue a profit making aim. These gardens have an important value for the social cohesion on local level and can as well contribute to improve the quality of life and the environment in urban areas and to preserve the biodiversity.

In accordance with the law dated July 19th, 2004 on communal planning and urban development, the local authorities are obliged to revise their general planning schemes. In this context one has to consider the question on the classification of the allotment garden sites. In fact the activities pursued in these gardens and the necessary constructions as for example the shed for the garden material, the laying out of paths and the use of fertilizers etc. seem to be more compatible with a classification within the construction limits of a commune than in a green zone.

In this context I would like to have following precisions :

- **Do the ministers generally recommend the classification of the allotment garden sites in a specific zone within the construction limits of the communes ?**
- **In relation with the use of these grounds, do the ministers think that it is good to propose to the communes a uniform text with exploitation criteria to be integrated if necessary into the written part of the planning schemes (PAG) ?**

Yours sincerely.

Henri Kox,
Member of Parliament

Translation

Answer by the Minister of Environment Protection and the Minister of Interior and Territorial Planning concerning the Parliamentary question no. 2979 of Mr. Henri KOX, member of Parliament

1. The grand-ducal regulation dated October 25, 2004 concerning the general planning scheme of a commune determines the content of its graphic and written parts and especially the definitions of the different zones, their affectation, the mode and generally speaking the degree of utilization. The appendix number 1 determining the key-outline of the general planning scheme as well as article 18 of the above mentioned grand-ducal regulation stipulate that the allotment gardens or the allotment garden sites should be classified preferably within an allotment garden zone.

As this zone ranges under the heading „urbanized zone or zone to be urbanized“, it can not be considered as a green zone under the law of January 19th, 2004 on the protection of nature and natural resources. The grand-ducal regulation dated October 25, 2004 mentioned above stipulates in addition that these zones are destined for the gardening culture and relaxation.

Additionally this regulation stipulates that only one single allotment garden shed with a maximum ground surface of 20 m² can be built on each individual plot.

The indications of the key-outline and the corresponding definitions concerning these zones can however be completed or made clearer according to the proper characteristics of the concerned commune.

One has as well to draw the attention to the fact that every construction project in these zones requires the elaborating of a particular planning project in accordance with article 27 of the law dated July 19, 2004 on communal planning and urban development.

2. Following to the above explanations, the legal frame as it exists today is sufficiently clear and precise in order to guarantee a certain harmonisation of the communal regulations and does at the same time respect the principle of communal autonomy in this area.