

# MEP                    hammers                    Brussels “doublespeak” on agriculture

Announcements by the European Commission on the proposed restructuring of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) have been condemned by British MEP Stuart Agnew who said they would create “a lawyer’s paradise”.

Mr Agnew said: “The proposals to target CAP subsidies toward ‘active farmers’ are a classic example of ‘doublespeak’, introduced as a simplification when it rapidly becomes apparent that things will be much more complicated.

“These proposals will create a lawyer’s paradise because they will have to become involved in deciding if the splitting of a business is a genuine desire or whether it is just a cynical subsidy harvesting operation. Lawyers will also be involved in deciding who is an ‘active farmer’ and what exactly constitutes ‘farmed’ land.”

“Inevitably, yet another British quango must be set up to advise farmers of their benefits. All this new tide of micro-management demonstrates is that it is not practical or sensible to have a single agriculture policy for 27 very diverse countries developed and administered by unelected, deskbound bureaucrats from the European Commission.”