

played an important role as a "national" policy instrument under the CAP, green rates being specific to a particular country's currency, and effectively alterable only on the proposal of that country (rather than the Commission). A Minister may therefore choose the timing of such a proposal to suit domestic politics, or as part of a package deal alongside agreement to changes in common (ECU) support prices and other CAP instruments.

The Commission has always emphasized the temporary nature of MCAs because they are in conflict with the principle of a common market in farm products. The EC 1992 initiative provides an opportunity to remove the existing arrangements.

### III Institutional Arrangements and Timing

#### 1. Insitutional Arrangements

The four Community institutions primarily involved in the 1992 program are the Commission, the Council, the Parliament and the European Court of Justice (ECJ). The Commission proposes, the Parliament advises and the Council decides. These three institutions are subject to the supervision of the Court of Justice.

The first stage in the Community's legislative process is the drafting of a proposal by the Commission. The Commission's proposal is then forwarded to the Council. The Council is the primary law-making body in the Community. The Council will deliberate on the Commission's proposal and is empowered to reject, amend or approve, as it so wishes. Where the Treaty provides for consultation with the Parliament, however, the Council must first obtain the Parliament's opinion on the proposed measure before it makes its final decision.

The Single European Act has introduced what is known as the "cooperation procedure" in respect of certain measures. Whenever the cooperation procedure applies, the Council may not adopt a final decision upon receipt of Parliament's opinion. Rather, it must adopt what is known as its **common position**. That common position is then referred back to the Parliament for a second reading. The Parliament may decide to approve, reject or amend the Council's common position. It will then refer its second opinion to the Council. Should the Parliament propose amendments to the Council's common position, then the Commission must also put forward its views on the common position and on the Parliament's proposed amendments. Only upon receipt of the Parliament's second opinion may the Council finally makes its decision. The various stages in the process are outlined in Figure 2.