



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

Directorate D
SG-D-3 – Resource Efficiency

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NOTE TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

**Subject: Meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA)
Brussels, 27 March 2017 - Summary record**

The Special Committee for Agriculture prepared the incoming Ministerial Council, notably as regards the agricultural part of the Omnibus Regulation, where Ministers will be invited to assess the compromise package of the Presidency. The Commission also briefly presented the Report on implementation of Ecological Focus Areas, in view of the presentation in the Council. Finally, a group of delegations (SE, FI, DK, LV, LT and EE) announced they would submit a note on simplification of the Common Agriculture Policy and present it in the Council under AOB.

[signed]

Further information: [REDACTED]

1. Adoption of the agenda

I

**2. Summary record of the 1546nd meeting of the SCA
–7477/17 CRS CSA 6**

II

3. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1299/2013, (EU) 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, EU No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1305/2013, (EU) No 1306/2013, (EU) No 1307/2013, (EU) No 1308/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, (EU) No 652/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Decision No 541/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (Omnibus proposal) (First reading)

– Agricultural provisions - draft consolidated text

The SCA examined further the revised suggested overall compromise package with a view to making further progress in view of the AGRIFISH Council debate on 3 April.

The Presidency circulated a consolidated compromise document ahead of the meeting. Member States were invited to indicate which provisions continued to present them with serious difficulties.

With regard to the Direct Payment Regulation, MS seem to generally agree with the proposal. The most problematic points for the Commission are the changes to permanent grassland and voluntary coupled support.

In the CMO Regulation the most sensitive issues are national financial assistance and the additional amendment to the definition of wine requested by France.

As regards as Rural Development, most MS seem to be able to accept the compromise proposal, though some MS still have problems with regard to investments in irrigation, crop, animal and plant insurance and investments in physical assets and advisory services.

MS generally supported the compromise text for the Horizontal Regulation. Two MS indicated, however, that the compromise proposal for the threshold for recoveries is unacceptable.

The Presidency concluded by saying that the Omnibus will be on the agenda of the AGRIFISH Council on April 3th. A revised consolidated document and a note summarising the state of play will be distributed ahead of the Council meeting.

Reporting: [REDACTED], DG AGRI, Unit C.1 Tel.: [REDACTED]

4. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the definition, presentation and labelling of spirit drinks, the use of the names of spirit drinks in the presentation and labelling of other foodstuffs and the protection of geographical indications for spirit drinks

- Exchange of views

The Presidency held an exchange of views on the two main policy issues identified in the Working Party, namely (a) the Commission empowerment in adopting delegated and implementing acts; and (b) the proposed alignment of the geographical indications protection procedure for spirit drinks to that of the Foodstuffs Regulation.

Delegations were invited to provide policy orientations to guide the work of the Working Party on Wines and Alcohol (Spirit Drinks).

With regards to the **empowerments to the Commission**, a number of delegations emitted reservations. Some (IT, SI, EL, RO, SK) though the proposal to be unbalanced with too many DAs, while others (IT, SI, UK, NL, IE) raised issued regarding principles

of proportionality and subsidiarity. Also a number of delegations were of the opinion that essential elements of the regulation cannot be changed by DAs, as this power should remain in BA (IT, BE, PL, DE, SI, AT, SE, FR, PT, SK, CY, UK, CZ) or rather by IAs (ES, EL, LV). Five delegations also had scrutiny reservations (HU, BG, SE, CZ, DK) while two (FI, LV) supported explicitly the COM proposal to ensure sufficient flexibility.

Regarding the **Geographical Indications**:

- In favour of status quo: IT, BE (not final position), DE, SI, AT, RO (first option: alignment to wine), IE, EL, NL, BG, LV
- In favour of harmonisation with horizontal rules (R 1151/2012) by taking due account of the specificities of spirit drinks: PL, HU, ES, HR, SE, UK, FR, FI, CZ, LT, PT, SK, DK, CY
- Not in favour of allowing the COM to cancel existing GIs: IT, SI, RO, DK
- New procedure too bureaucratic to the disadvantage of SMEs/unjustified administrative burden for MS: DE, NL, AT
- Uncertainty about the deadlines for examination/approval of GIs: IT, CY

The PRES took note that the Proposal should be further analysed on an article by article basis and in principle the delegation of powers should be limited in time. The PRES also took note of the intentions to address the GI concerns in particular.

Reporting: [REDACTED], *DG AGRI, Unit G.2 Tel.:* [REDACTED]

5. Simplification: Commission report on the implementation of Ecological Focus Areas

= Information from the Commission

In view of the debate at the 3 April AGRIFISH Council on the Commission's report on the implementation of EFAs, the Commission provided information on this report. The Commission recalled the objective of this report which is due to be adopted on 29 March 2017 and which will be directly transmitted to the Council and the EP afterwards.

The PRES took note of the info provided by the Commission on the forthcoming report as well as of the delegations comments. The PRES confirms this report will be presented and discussed during the AGRIFISH meeting of 3 April.

Reporting: [REDACTED], *DG AGRI, Unit I.5 Tel.:* [REDACTED]

6. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on organic production and labelling of organic products, amending Regulation (EU) No XXX/XXX of the European Parliament and of the Council [Official controls Regulation] and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007

= Debriefing of the last trilogue

Presidency debriefed the SCA on the limited progress of the 16th Trilogue. They informed the SCA that beside the one on the 15th of March there will be further drafting sessions with the three institutions. The Commission repeated the importance of having a number of constructive drafting sessions.

A brief discussion took place on a non-paper on greenhouses meant as a brainstorming document. DK, FI, SE and LV rejected the text finding it impossible to apply. On the other hand IT, PL, NL, BE, CY, EL expressed their disappointment as by authorising demarcated beds we would derogate to the principle of soil-bound which is of a basic principle in organics. DE added that there is still considerable job to be done.

The Commission stressed the importance to push it through and get a deal by the end of the MT Presidency. An ad hoc SCA will be organised on the 10th of April.

Reporting: [REDACTED], DG AGRI, Unit B.4 Tel.: [REDACTED]

7. Organisation of future work

The next **AGRIFISH** Council will take place on 3 April in Luxembourg. The provisional agenda includes Omnibus and the Commission report on EFA (Ecological Focus Areas).

The PRES also announced that the Danish, Estonian, Finnish, Latvian, Lithuanian and Swedish delegations will shortly submit a joint note on simplification of the CAP post 2020, for submission as an AOB point during the AGRIFISQH Council of 3 April 2017.

Reporting: [REDACTED], DG AGRI, Unit I.5 Tel.: [REDACTED]
