Brussels, 23 May 2017

SI(2017) xxx

NOTE TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Subject: Meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA)
Malta, 23 May 2017 - Summary record

Further to the opinion adopted by COMAGRI on 3 May on the Omnibus proposal, SCA discussed the Parliament’s amendments made in relation to the Direct Payments and CMO Regulations based on Presidency questions. The SCA will examine the amendments to the Rural Development and Horizontal Regulations at its next meeting on 06 June.

[signed]

Further information:

1. Adoption of the agenda

I

2. Summary record of the 1549th meeting of the SCA
8496/17 CRS CSA 9

Summary record adopted.

II

3. Omnibus

On 03 May, the European Parliament Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development adopted its opinion on the Omnibus proposal. The SCA discussed the Parliament’s amendments made in relation to the Direct Payments and CMO Regulations. The SCA will examine the amendments to the Rural Development and Horizontal Regulations on 06 June.

To structure the discussion, the Presidency invited delegations to indicate, in particular: (1) whether they could agree to consider any amendments to the Direct Payments Regulation regarding greening within the framework of the Omnibus Regulations and
so, which ones; and (2) whether they would be ready to consider any of the many draft amendments to the CMO Regulation concerning collaboration between producers and the relations between them and other players in the agricultural supply chain within the framework of the Omnibus Regulation and, if so, which ones.

Regarding greening, the COM reminded need to focus on environmental purposes. ECA SR expected (political pressure). Also (non-greening): change in definition of agricultural activity and payment entitlements stressed.

**For the part on DP**, a common view expressed by the delegations was that the amendments should contribute to **simplification** in order to make the policy applicable and better understood for farmers and to allow the timetable foreseen (entry into force in 2018).

In general, a number of delegations welcomed the amendments dealing with greening. However, a number of issues still remain outstanding with some delegations (i.a. ES, UK, NL …) cannot support most of amendments proposed (DE afhoudende houding)… A number of delegations (ES, DE, DK and …) also stressed the need of a more intense / detailed discussion at expert level. In addition, in particular **storage** amendment (amendment 67) raised questions (…, EL, DK, LU,)

**For the part on CMO**, the COM in particular emphasized the no-go regarding the obligation to come up with a proposal regarding UTP by mid-2018 (amendment 152).

Most delegations agreed a more in-depth analysis is needed. Especially concern regarding new **bargaining organisations** (BE, BG, FR, HR, DE…), **wine** sector (IT, ES, BG, …), Unfair Trade Practices & food chain (UK, SE, DE, NL),

DE: need for clarification for activities of PO’s (regarding derogations from competition law). No need for bargaining organisations

COMM:

- 152 UTP: statements (to be issued by MS) could be considered;
- FI dele preparations for lean text: impact assessments and legislative proposal expected
- DE delegation; derogation form COMP laws: court case running (might help to clarify)

SCA took note of comments expressed by delegations, especially on VCS and greening, with the desire of the delegations to conclude the file at the earliest.

Process: examination of EP amendments

Coreper still to adopt a mandate (foreseen for 31 may)

Continuation of discussions on two other REG in SCA of 6 June.

EE PRES will take over then. 5 July first Trilogue.

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

7. Organisation of future work

29 MAY SCA meeting: revised mandate on organic

6 JUNE SCA: continue omnibus

Last council during one day (items to be discussed) in LUX in June.

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