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COVER NOTE

From:	The Irish parliament (Houses of the Oireachtas)
date of receipt:	22 July 2025
To:	The President of the Council of the European Union
Subject:	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013, (EU) 2021/2115 and (EU) 2021/2116 as regards the strengthening of the position of farmers in the food supply chain [16779/24 - COM(2024)577 final] <i>- Opinion on the application of the Principles of Subsidiarity and Proportionality</i>

Delegations will find attached the opinion¹ of the Irish parliament (Houses of the Oireachtas) on the above.

¹ The translation(s) of the opinion may be available on the Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange website (IPEX) at the following address: <https://secure.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/document/COM-2024-0577>



An Comhchoiste um Thalmhaíocht agus Bia

An Cion Polaitiúil i ndáil leis an Togra le haghaidh
RIALACHÁN Ó PHARLAIMINT NA hEORPA AGUS ÓN
gCOMHAIRLE lena leasaítear Rialacháin (AE) Uimh.
1308/2013, (AE) 2021/2115 agus (AE) 2021/2116 a
mhéid a bhaineann le seasamh na bhfeirmeoirí a neartú i
slabhra an tsoláthair bia

Iúil 2025

Joint Committee on Agriculture and Food

Political Contribution on Proposal for a REGULATION OF
THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
amending Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013, (EU)
2021/2115 and (EU) 2021/2116 as regards the
strengthening of the position of farmers in the food supply
chain

July 2025

34/JCAF/01

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Introduction

1. The Oireachtas Joint Committee on Agriculture and Food (“the Committee”) considers COM (2024) 577 to be significantly important to Ireland and the EU.

Scrutiny by the Joint Committee

2. The Committee first considered the proposal at its meeting on 24th June 2025 and again at its meeting on 8th July 2025. The Committee heard from officials from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine at its meeting on 2nd July 2025, the transcript of which can be viewed [here](#).

Decision of the Joint Committee

3. On 8th July 2025, the Committee agreed to draft a political contribution and to forward a copy to Martin Heydon T.D. Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, Roberta Metsola MEP, President of the European Parliament, and to the President of the Council of the European Union.
4. The Joint Committee also agreed to seek written submissions from a number of stakeholders, to help inform its deliberations on the proposal.
5. The Committee further agreed that, in the interests of interparliamentary cooperation on EU matters, a copy of this report be forwarded to the appropriate Committee in the National Parliament of each EU Member State and to Ireland’s MEPs.

Opinion of the Joint Committee

6. Having considered the proposal in detail, the Committee makes the following observations: -
- a. The Committee supports the overall objective behind the proposal, to strengthen the position of farmers in the food supply chain. The Committee recognises the significant value and importance of farming in Ireland, in terms of Ireland's culture and heritage and also in terms of its contribution to the Irish economy, with Irish agrifood exports achieving a record value of €19.2 billion in 2024.¹ The Committee also recognises and emphasises the need to support farmers' position in the food supply chain, with approximately 133,000 farms in Ireland and more than 171,000 individuals employed in the agri-food sector in Ireland.²
 - b. While the Committee is supportive of the objectives behind this proposal, the Committee wishes to express its observations regarding several elements of the proposal as currently formulated.
 - c. The Committee welcomes the fact that the Commission is considering contracts that are made in advance of delivery, made in writing and include information such as price for delivery, price calculators using various factors, products delivered, and the duration of the contract.
 - d. The Committee believes that the specific articles that refer to the contract in paragraphs 4 to 8 should form the basis for any new supply agreement into the future. The Committee also believes that the elements of paragraph 4 will have to be considered by purchasers when looking at pricing and price agreements into the future, even if an exemption from paragraph 4 may be sought.

¹ [Importance of Agrifood to the Irish Economy: Statements – Dáil Éireann \(34th Dáil\) – Thursday, 20 Feb 2025 – Houses of the Oireachtas](#)

² [Importance of Agrifood to the Irish Economy: Statements – Dáil Éireann \(34th Dáil\) – Thursday, 20 Feb 2025 – Houses of the Oireachtas](#)

- e. The Committee is supportive of the fact that derogations from written contracts must be secured by the Member State and that any alternatives to these contracts must reflect the spirit of the Regulation.
- f. The Committee welcomes the inclusion of provisions around mediation mechanisms in relation to these contracts and believes that if a derogation from a contract is granted, this provision should be inserted into any subsequent agreement reached between farmers and co-operatives.
- g. The Committee expresses concerns around Article 168 (6) (a) and the inclusion of €10,000 as the maximum value of deliveries for which Member States may decide that a written contract or a written offer will not be required.
- h. The Committee welcomes Article 2 of the Regulation and provisions allowing the EU to provide financial support to Member States for measures undertaken by operators in periods of severe market imbalances. While supportive of the intention behind this measure, the Committee believes that the funding for this measure should not derive from CAP funding.
- i. In terms of the Regulation in general, the Committee supports comments from stakeholder groups that the same protections under the Regulation as provided to producer organisations must be guaranteed for all individual farmers, regardless of the size of their production.
- j. The Committee also expresses concern in relation to certain terminology and definitions that are contained within the Regulation, for example, in relation to farmers and producer organisations and the term “short supply chain”.

Recommendations of the Joint Committee

7. The Committee recommends that: -

- a. The Regulation should provide further clarity and details on what the definition of a contract is in relation to a contract between the farmer and the buyer, for example, whether an invoice, bill of sale or receipt would constitute a written contract.
- b. Consideration be given to amending Article 168 (6) (a) and increasing the value of deliveries for which Member States may decide that a formal written contract or a written offer will not be required, from €10,000 to €100,000.
- c. The funding for the financial measures outlined under Article 2 of the Regulation should not derive from CAP funding.
- d. The language used to distinguish between farmers and producer organisations within the Regulation should be made simpler and clearer.
- e. The term “short supply chain” should be more clearly defined within the Regulation, in particular the definition of an “intermediary” and how many intermediaries in the chain would define a “short supply chain”.



Aindrias Moynihan T.D.
Cathaoirleach
Joint Committee on Agriculture and Food
[16 July 2025]