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European Union

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Extention of the final date for submission of aid applications
- Requested by the Polish delegation

In view of the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council of 11 April 2016, delegations will find attached a document provided by the Polish delegation on the above-mentioned subject, that will be presented under the agenda point "Market situation".

Warsaw, 5 April 2016

**Poland's request with reference to the meeting of the EU Agricultural and Fisheries
Council on 11 April 2016**

Extension of the final date for submission of aid applications

Recognizing the solutions for extending the final date for submission of aid applications or payment claims implemented in 2015, Poland submitted the *request on derogation from Article 13(1) and Article 15(2) of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 809/2014*, enabling the extension of the final date for submission of aid applications or payment claims for 2016 by one month i.e. by 15 June 2016.

This extension would give the Polish farmers additional time to familiarize with the provisions of the new scheme and complete the applications in correct manner.

This issue is of significance to Poland, since due to implementation of the new direct support scheme and the new area-related measures under RDP 2014-2020 in 2015, the application forms contain more elements and are more complex. For this reason they require a higher effort than previously for both farmers and the advisors supporting them with completing the applications, who in order to fill out the application correctly have to devote more time with the farmers.

Poland submitted the letter addressing the extension to the European Commission in March of the current year.

It should be emphasized that in 2015 the payment claims were submitted by 1.355 Polish farmers (equivalent to the total for France, Germany, United Kingdom, Ireland, Portugal, Austria, the Netherlands, Denmark and Belgium) for the total area exceeding 14.1 million ha located at 10.6 million of reference parcels. The obligation of maintaining the ecological focus areas (above 15 ha of agricultural arable lands) applies to 165.7 thousand of farmers declaring the area for single area payment scheme exceeding 7.6 million ha, which translates into more than 54% total area declared for this type of payment.

In addition attention should be drawn to the fact that in Poland a single application form applies also to the area payments under the RDP 2007 – 2013 and the new RDP 2015 – 2020 since 2015. Implementation of the new RDP measures contributed to compilation of difficulties in completing the claim by the farmers.

At the same time it should be emphasized that despite the extension of the final date for submission of payment claims in 2015, the Paying Agency succeeded in its obligation to carry out the on-the-spot checks as scheduled, in particular in the area of checking the delivery of greening practices. Thus, the extension of the final date of submission of application in 2016 shall pose no risk for execution of administrative and on-the-spot checks both under the direct payments and rural development measures.