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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Special Committee on Agriculture

Subject: Draft DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE
COUNCIL on unfair trading practices in business-to-business relationships
in the agricultural and food supply chain **(first reading)**
- Adoption of the legislative act
- Statements

Joint statement by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission

The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission stress that the transparency of agricultural and food markets is a key element of a well-functioning agricultural and food supply chain, in order to better inform the choices of economic operators and public authorities as well as to facilitate the understanding of operators on market developments. The Commission is encouraged to continue its ongoing work to enhance market transparency at EU level. This may include the strengthening of the work on EU market observatories and improving the collection of statistical data necessary for the analysis of price formation mechanisms along the agricultural and food supply chain.

Statement by Denmark

Denmark supports the compromise reached on the directive on unfair trading practices in the food supply chain with the following considerations in mind.

Firstly, Denmark recognizes the importance of strengthening the position of farmers in the food supply chain. In Denmark, the high level of organization of farmers in cooperatives is key to ensure this. Therefore, Denmark has during the negotiations strived to ensure that the directive is compatible with the cooperative model. It is the Danish understanding that the final compromise protects the cooperative as a model since it addresses the specificities of cooperatives in relation to payment deadlines and written contracts.

Secondly, in relation to the scope of the directive, Denmark has continuously supported the Commission proposal to protect small and medium-sized enterprises since this closely corresponds to the legal basis of the directive in the Treaty and the objective to ensure a fair standard of living for the agricultural community.

Thirdly, it is essential that fighting unfair trading practices does not compromise the well-functioning of the internal market nor a continued market orientation of the agricultural policy. Therefore, Denmark stresses the importance of ensuring that national rules going beyond the directive should respect the rules of the internal market.
