



Council of the
European Union

**Brussels, 2 June 2017
(OR. en)**

9748/17

CRS CSA 12

SUMMARY RECORD

Subject: 1552nd meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA) held in
Brussels on 29th May 2017

SUMMARY

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1. **Adoption of the agenda**
9652/17 OJ CSA 12

The agenda was adopted.

I

2. **Summary record of the 1551st meeting of the SCA**
9627/17 CRS CSA 11

The SCA approved the summary record.

II

3. **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 (First reading)**

Interinstitutional file: 2014/0100 (COD)

- Preparation of a revised mandate
8993/17 AGRILEG 93 CODEC 762 + ADD 1 + ADD 2

The SCA took note of the revised mandate submitted by the Presidency (document 8993/17) and of the comments provided by the delegations and the Commission.

Many delegations raised objections on the proposed orientations submitted by the Presidency to solve, among others, the critical issues on pesticides, greenhouses and ending of derogations. As a consequence, the SCA did not endorse the revised mandate suggested by the Presidency in view of the trilogue meeting scheduled on 31st May. The Presidency will inform the European Parliament that the trilogue on 31st May will be cancelled.

The French delegation submitted a statement (see in the Annex).

4. **Organisation of future work**

The Presidency informed the SCA about the next SCA meeting on 6 June 2017 and the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council on 12 June 2017. The Polish delegation requested an AOB, on the position of the EU in the WTO negotiations on agriculture, to be discussed at that Council meeting.

Statement by France

to be annexed to the minutes of the Special Committee on Agriculture meeting held on
29 May 2017

II items

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

– mandate for the next trilogue

France welcomes the Maltese Presidency's efforts to strike a balanced compromise in 8993/17.

We appreciate the progress made on the draft revised mandate. We would like to reiterate the contents of the statement annexed to the minutes of the SCA meeting of 27 February, as the observations we made therein with regard to the frequency of inspections, the threshold and the 'soil-bound' principle remain valid.

We encourage the Presidency to take account of the concerns related to growing plants in pots and to strictly circumscribe the derogation allowing that practice so that it does not develop further. To do so, we call on the Presidency to define objective criteria – similar to the 56th parallel north rule – which are applicable both to the Member States of the European Union and to importing third countries.

Finally, we reiterate the importance of making further progress on the technical points mentioned at the SCA meeting which need to be clarified or harmonised so as to avoid serious economic consequences or even an adverse effect on the growth of organic farming (the definition of poultry house and the status quo with regard to limiting the size of poultry meat farms; a better understanding of the reality of life on our farms with regard to tethering; guiding innovation in and the development of processed organic products whilst maintaining the possibility, under specific conditions, to resort to national authorisations for non-organic ingredients; maintaining the requirement to rotate crops; marketing in-conversion plant products; the provisions on simultaneous conversion; and the possibility of restricting the use of synergists (which is authorised in conventional production) in organic production).