



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 16 April 2015
(OR. en)

7947/15

AGRI 187
ONU 46
FAO 15

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: EXPO Milano 2015 (1 May - 31 October 2015)
- information from the Italian delegation

Delegations will find attached an information note received from the Italian delegation on the above mentioned subject to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 20 April 2015.

EXPO Milano 2015 (1May - 31 October 2015)

Information from the Italian delegation

The global food challenge is undoubtedly a central issue on the international agenda in the coming years, and it calls for the joint efforts of Governments, International Organizations, Business and Civil Society. The challenges of the 21st century are complex and can only be faced through a multilateral approach.

How to ensure food security in the future, in a world in which population is constantly growing? In which there is a limited availability of natural resources and soils? In which “land grabbing” phenomena will be more and more frequent, particularly in development countries, increasingly influencing the geopolitical scenario? How to reduce food waste along the entire food chain, and increase food production maintaining a high quality level and without damaging the environment?

In this context, for six months, from May 1 to October 31, 2015, Expo Milano 2015 will be a leading event and will host a global debate on the theme “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life”, providing an international platform for discussion and possible solutions to the contradictions that the global food challenge entails: for example the fact that even today 800 million people go hungry, while 1.9 billion are overweight or obese.

The Universal Exposition will involve 145 countries, 3 International Organizations, 13 Civil Society organizations and several private companies. 20 million visitors are expected, a prediction that considers the 9 million tickets that have already been sold until today.

Expo Milano also introduces a new innovative model for Universal Expositions: for example the "Clusters", 9 thematic pavilions which will bring together more countries, besides the 57 self built national Pavilions. Furthermore, also the European Union and the United Nations will participate in the event.

Expo Milano 2015 can mark a key milestone in rethinking and recharting the global food challenge; a place where all countries of the world can meet and where concrete support can be given to the development and dissemination of a new, shared awareness of mankind’s development and growth on our planet.

Therefore, Expo Milano 2015 will not just be a Universal Exposition on food security and sustainability, but rather a place in which the international community will have a great chance to meet and share ideas, also acting as a driving force for the content of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

We must consider that in the future, with the opening of new markets and the progressive liberalization of trade, the volatility of agricultural markets will be even more marked, requiring adequate tools to be necessarily set up in time.

Expo will also be an important occasion to discuss about agriculture as expression of people's culture, identity and traditions.

As part of the many events that will be organized during Expo, specifically regarding agriculture, the Italian Ministry of Agricultural Food and Forestry Policies is organizing, also in cooperation with FAO, an International Agricultural Forum to be held on June 4 and 5 in Milan, which will bring together around the same table the Ministers of Agriculture of all the world.

The discussion will be articulated in three thematic sessions (1.Agriculture, Food and Development; 2.Agriculture, Food and Culture; 3.Agriculture and Food Security), and a presentation and debate on the "Charter of Milan", a document aiming at highlighting the possible legacy of Expo, by providing awareness and action on the food issue by citizens, companies, associations and institutions.

The Charter will be opened to public subscription and will be finally delivered to the Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon during his visit to Expo on the World Food Day (16th of October 2015).
