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European Union

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Significant damage to agricultural production and certain rural areas of the Republic of Croatia due to adverse weather conditions
- Information from the Croatian delegation

Delegations will find in the Annex a note received from the Croatian delegation on the abovementioned subject, to be dealt with under “Any other business” at the session of the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council on 13 June 2022.

Significant damage to agricultural production and certain rural areas of the Republic of Croatia due to adverse weather conditions

In the span of just a few days, certain parts of Croatia were hit by a major storm followed by wind, rain and hail, the intensity of which has not been recorded for decades. Significant damage was sustained on the roofs of houses, residential and commercial buildings, vehicles, and other property. In addition, greenhouses, hothouses and agricultural crops were damaged.

The exact damages are still being assessed, but they have been recorded on the production and production potential in the floriculture sector, annual crops, orchards, vegetables and vineyards. The center of flower production in Croatia and certain vegetable crops were heavily affected. Products that were ready for the market were destroyed. Due to the large amount of rainfall, the storm water drainage channel system networks were disabled in some parts of the country. In addition, landslides occurred and significant damage were caused on the unclassified roads, macadam and field roads. The necessary swiftness for carrying out the required repairs will present a particular challenge, given the production process and the specificities of this production.

According to the preliminary data, a significant part of the total agricultural production in the affected areas was irretrievably destroyed and the income of the producers has been affected as well as their sustainability.

At a time when agricultural production and food security are a global priority, recent hail damage has put additional pressure and hampered the recovery of Croatia's agricultural sector. Therefore, the Republic of Croatia is making additional efforts to ensure stable production conditions in the affected areas and is working on the preparation and activation of all available instruments. In that context, we do expect and hope for the support and assistance from the European Commission services. In addition to utilization of administrative tools (force majeure) and available measures of the Rural Development Programme (Restoring agricultural production etc.), Croatia is considering the use of state aid measures in accordance with the financial possibilities of the national budget and in synergy with the other CAP measures.

Taking into account the current situation, i.e. the importance of agricultural production for the European Union, we believe that any form of assistance to the affected sectors is necessary to maintain the preconditions for the sustainability of agricultural business and we call on the European Commission to take aforementioned into account.
