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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations

Subject: AOB item for the meeting of the “Agriculture and Fisheries” Council on 22-23 June 2026:
Amending Regulation as regards the school scheme, sectoral interventions, the protein sector, hemp, marketing standards, import duties, the availability of supplies and securities
Amending Council Regulation as regards the EU school scheme
- Information from the Presidency

Background

On 16 July 2025, the Commission presented its proposals for the post-2027 framework for the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Markets Organisation.

More specifically, the Commission proposal for the Common Markets Organisation (CMO) in the post-2027 framework included targeted amendments to the CMO framework, stemming from the integration of Sectoral interventions and the EU School Scheme within the National and Regional Partnership Plans, with the aim of enabling stronger synergies with other Union funds and reflecting developments in agricultural markets and food supply chains.

These amendments aimed, among others, to promote healthy eating through locally sourced products under the EU school schemes, create a new sector for protein crops, protect certain meat-related terms, provide for future marketing standards and origin labelling for protein crops and certain animal products, and strengthen preparedness and the availability of agricultural supplies in emergency situations.

Under the Cyprus Presidency, work at technical level has advanced substantially, allowing delegations to examine the proposed framework in detail and to identify the elements requiring further technical exchange. Discussions have centred on how to ensure a clear and workable framework for farmers, administrations and beneficiaries, while safeguarding the common nature of the policy, a market-oriented approach, shared Union-level objectives and an appropriate degree of Member State discretion.

State of play at Working Party level on the CMO – MFF post 2027 Proposal

Five Working Party (WP) for Agricultural Products meetings were held. Discussions have advanced on all main thematic blocks of the proposal. Throughout this process, the priorities expressed by Member States were carefully considered, and the key points of concern raised have been duly reflected in the successive compromise texts. The latest version of the Presidency compromise text was presented during the last WP meeting on 11 and 12 June 2026.¹ The overall objective has been to strike a balance between granting Member States sufficient flexibility for implementation under the future National and Regional Partnership Plan (NRPP) framework and preserving the common character of the CMO, the level playing field in the internal market and the market-oriented nature of the policy.

¹ An updated version of the text including a technical correction is annexed to document 9698/1/26 REV 1.

EU School Schemes, marketing standards for meat and cheese, origin labelling, meat designations and pig carcass classification methods

As regards the **EU school scheme**, further flexibility was added for Member States in relation to the distribution of products together with regular school meals. The text also gives Member States more room to take account of national circumstances, subject to authorisation by competent national health and nutrition authorities, to include traditional and locally relevant products by adapting the proposed fat or free sugar content, within clear limits and safeguards. The Presidency introduced clarifications on the eligible educational establishments and on the relationship between the Union scheme and existing national school schemes.

The text maintains the objective of promoting healthy eating habits among children, and includes simplified arrangements through streamlining reporting obligations under the new NRPP context, as well as for the transitional period from August to December 2027.

On **marketing standards**, progress included the possible inclusion of rice among sectors for which standards may be developed, subject to the applicable procedures. The proposed text preserves flexibility for future, evidence-based work at Union level, while ensuring transparency for consumers, legal certainty for operators and a level playing field in the internal market. On **meat-related terms** and **origin labelling**, the Presidency removed the relevant provisions to reflect the political agreement reached between the European Parliament and the Council on the proposal for targeted changes to the CMO regulation, for strengthening farmers' position in the food supply chain.

On **pig carcass classification**, while maintaining the objective of simplification and reduction of administrative burden, revised wording makes clear that the common peer-review procedure, supervised by the Commission, continues to apply, preserving consistency and the common Union framework.

Availability of supplies, public interventions and empowerment for tariff quota

On **availability of supplies in emergencies and severe crises**, the Presidency has preserved the ambition to strengthen preparedness in the agricultural sector, while anchoring the provisions more clearly under the CMO remit and on the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. National preparedness and response plans are to be risk-based, proportionate and adapted based on existing national or Union frameworks. Member States retain responsibility for the management of crises on their territory and for national security matters. The text also strengthens safeguards for confidential and sensitive information and clarifies that responsibility for deciding the scope, establishment and management of reserves remains a Member State prerogative, while promoting coordination and minimising market disturbance.

The Presidency also addressed a number of technical but important elements, regarding provisions on public intervention and private storage, and empowerment. Changes aim to ensure coherence with the CMO policy framework.

Sectoral interventions

On **sectoral interventions**, the Presidency has sought to respond to the request for flexibility without weakening the common framework, while avoiding unnecessary administrative burden. Member States remain able to provide support in a broad range of sectors, while the compulsory character of interventions is calibrated more carefully. The text keeps the necessary common rules for producer organisations and associations of producer organisations, while ensuring that Member States are not required to programme interventions pre-emptively in sectors where producer structures are not yet organised. In selected sectors, the obligation would be triggered only where recognised structures request support. The proposed Presidency text preserves a common framework for interventions, while clarifying and broadening the range of possible measures available. The list, however, remains exhaustive, thereby safeguarding equal treatment among Member States.

Rules on beneficiaries were also refined. Member States may, if they so decide, allow producer groups or other forms of cooperation between producers to benefit from support. This possibility remains, however, strictly transitional: it is limited to the first operational programme, must be accompanied by a recognition plan, and support is to be recovered if recognition as a producer organisation is not achieved. While preserving flexibility for emerging producer structures, Union support remains linked to the established, recognised Producer Organisations model.

Protein crop sector, hemp, sugar and POSEI

On the **protein, flax and hemp sectors**, the Presidency text replaces mandatory automatic recognition with a Member State option: Member States may either deem existing producer organisations and interbranch organisations to be recognised in the new sectors, or require them to undergo recognition under applicable CMO rules. Transitional recognition arrangements have been clarified, together with safeguards that eligibility for Union financial support remains subject to compliance with the applicable recognition requirements. This approach supports the development of the protein value chain while maintaining legal certainty.

On production, marketing and imports of **hemp**, the Presidency redrafting aims to provide legal certainty and support the development of the sector, while preserving safeguards for public and animal health. The text clarifies the scope of products covered, relevant control mechanisms to be established by the Member States and verification procedures, and preserves the possibility for Member States to continue to regulate end use on public health grounds, in compliance with Union law.

On **sugar**, the text was clarified to ensure consistency in written agreements and delivery contracts for sugar beet and sugar cane, while taking account of the specific agronomic and regional conditions of sugar cane production.

On **POSEI**-related provisions, the text incorporates existing rules into the CMO framework to ensure continuity for the outermost regions post-2027, while preserving targeted support adapted to their specific constraints.

Similarly, for the Réunion-related provisions, following a Member State's request, the Presidency sought to ensure the continuity of existing specific arrangements on interbranch agreements, reflecting the vulnerability of local markets and the role of interbranch organisations in supporting the maintenance and diversification of local production.

Overall, the Presidency considers that substantial progress has been achieved at the technical level. The revised compromise text reflects many of the concerns expressed by delegations and provides a solid basis for further work. It combines targeted flexibility for Member States with the preservation of a common, market-oriented CMO framework.

Amendment of Regulation (EU) No 1370/2013 as regards the aid scheme for the supply of fruit and vegetables, bananas, and milk in educational establishments

Work on the Council fixing Regulation contributes to a more streamlined and efficient implementation of the school scheme during the transition to the new NRPP framework. For the transitional framework for the period from August to December 2027, administration of the scheme is simplified by removing the need for aid applications, transfers, and reallocations between Member States. A single final allocation for each Member State is proposed, maintaining the applicable funding ceilings.

Next steps

The Council is invited to take note of the progress made on the post-2027 proposals for the CMO under the Cyprus Presidency.
