



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 31 May 2012**

**10599/12**

**CRS CSA 13**

**SUMMARY RECORD**

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**Subject : 1430th meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA)  
held in Brussels on 29 May 2012**

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## SUMMARY

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1. **Adoption of the provisional agenda**  
10208/12 OJ CSA 13

The agenda was approved.

I

2. **Summary record of the 1429th meeting of the SCA**  
10200/12 CRS CSA 12

The Special Committee on Agriculture approved the summary record.

II

3. **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 as regards the application of direct payments to farmers in respect of the year 2013**

- *Debriefing on the first informal trilogue*  
9989/1/12 REV 1 AGRI 318 AGRIFIN 92 CODEC 1320

The SCA took note of the Presidency oral debrief on the outcome of the informal trilogue, held on 24 May 2012 in Strasbourg and on the next steps.

4. **CAP Reform: Definition of active farmer**  
**Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing rules for direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the common agricultural policy**

- *Orientation debate*  
9961/1/12 REV 1 AGRI 313 AGRIFIN 90 CODEC 1310

The SCA considered a number of further Presidency suggested amendments on the definition of 'active farmer', set out in doc. 9962/1/12 REV 1. The SCA noted the Presidency's summary of the discussion, the main points of which were as follows:

- There was broad support for the suggested amendments. While most delegations could agree with the suggestion to complement the common basic requirement with the two voluntary options, some delegations requested further flexibility. A few delegations, however, preferred a more uniform or mandatory approach.
- Suggestions for further improvement were noted, particularly the possibility for Member States to apply a lower threshold.

The SCA also noted the comments made by the Commission representative, as well as the Presidency's intention to reflect the outcome of the discussion in its progress report.

## 5. CAP Reform: Greening

- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy (the horizontal regulation)
- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing rules for direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the common agricultural policy
  - *Orientation debate*

To follow up on the work done in the Working Party on Horizontal Agricultural Questions (doc 8137/12),

- 1) the SCA further considered the issue of **permanent grassland**. The SCA noted the Presidency's summary of the discussion, the main points of which were as follows:
  - On the **definition of permanent grassland** there was considerable support to make further adjustments in line with the Commission concept paper (doc 9891/12), with some delegations requesting further clarification and some delegations requesting that the specificities of Mediterranean agriculture be further taken into account.
  - On the requirement to **maintain permanent grassland**, there was very large support for the suggestion to keep this at regional or national level and considerable support for the suggestion that the existing individual requirements would apply in case of a drop below the applicable ratio; while some delegations had concerns about control. On the suggestion to further recognise the climate and biodiversity benefits of permanent grassland of more than 10 years there was interest on the part of delegations although the administrative consequences of such a measure would need to be examined; while some delegations suggested to explore alternative options, particularly GAEC no. 7 (maintaining carbon-rich soil) and Pillar II measures.

The SCA also noted the comments made by the Commission representative, and its readiness to provide further clarifications, as well as the Presidency's intention to come back to this issue at the next SCA meeting.

2) the SCA took note of the information given by the Presidency on the outcome of the discussion in the Working Party on 31 May on **crop diversification**, the main points of which were as follows:

- The Presidency suggested amendments set out in doc. 9804/12 were generally welcomed by delegations. There was broad support for raising the threshold with some delegations wishing to go further. There was also broad support for the increased flexibility on the second and third crop, with some delegations maintaining their position on two crops. A number of delegations preferred a gradual approach based on the farm size.
- The suggested exemption for farmers with a high proportion of permanent grassland, herbaceous forage crops or fallow land was generally welcomed, with diverging views on the appropriate percentage.
- There were concerns on the suggested provisions for specialised farms with monocultures, particularly as regards monitoring and control. The need for further work was recognised.
- The Presidency's suggestion on the definition of "crop" was almost unanimously supported, with some concerns being expressed about the genus approach and mixed crops.

The SCA noted the additional requests made by individual delegations. The SCA also noted the comments made by the Commission representative.

## 6. **CAP Reform: Rural Development**

### **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural development (EAFRD)**

- *Preparation of Council meeting*

The SCA took note of delegations' contributions and of the Commission's reply.

The Presidency undertook to reflect on this discussion with a view to prepare the debate in Council on 18 June as well as the Presidency's progress report.

## 7. Quality Package

- **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Agricultural Product Quality Schemes**
  - *State of play*

The Presidency informed the SCA that the European Parliament had acknowledged that no qualified majority could be gathered at SCA on its amendment concerning supply management for PDO and PGI products. The European Parliament is nevertheless willing to continue negotiations towards a first reading agreement on the rest of the proposal, subject to a Council statement noting the importance of supply management for PDO and PGI products for the European Parliament and the discussion of the issue in the framework of the single CMO reform.

The SCA also took note of the Commission remaining concerns.

The Presidency announced he intends to reach a political agreement before the end of the semester. To this end a meeting of the Working Group of Attachés will be convened on 7 June and followed by the confirmation of the mandate by SCA on 11 June, with a view to the last trilogue.

- **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 as regards marketing standards**

The SCA noted that further to its meeting on 7 May 2012, the Presidency had informed the Rapporteur of the absence of a complete mandate on this dossier (see doc 9996/12). The SCA also noted that the partial mandate given to the Presidency on this dossier had been incorporated into the Presidency revised text on the Single CMO (doc 10284/12) and that discussions would continue on this basis.

8. **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products**

- *Preparation for the next informal trilogue*

The Presidency informed the Committee about the way it intends to continue the negotiations during the forthcoming trilogue (7 June) with the European Parliament on the dossier on organic farming. The Presidency intends to present to the European Parliament a revised compromised text - as a package for a final compromise - entailing that the concessions presented from the Council side will only be offered if the European Parliament accepts the compromise as a whole. The Presidency also informed the Committee that, following the comments received by some delegations during and after the SCA of 7 May 2012, it decided to reintroduce, on Article 27, the text proposed at the SCA of 27 February 2012, and to slightly adapt Article 9.

9. **Organisation of future work**

The Presidency informed the SCA on the preparation for the next meeting on 4 June 2012 in Horsens.

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