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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: Adverse weather conditions and the need for certain derogations within the framework of the CAP – Information from the Latvian delegation

Delegations will find in the Annex a note to be presented by the Latvian delegation, supported by the Czech, Estonian, Finnish, Hungarian, Lithuanian and Polish delegations under "Any other business" at the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council on 27 June 2023.

Adverse weather conditions and the need for certain derogations within the framework of the CAP

Information from the Latvian delegation, supported by the Czech, Estonian, Finnish, Hungarian, Lithuanian and Polish delegations, under “Any other business” at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 27 June 2023

In 2023, weather conditions across Europe are characterized by contrasting drier than usual conditions, significantly impacting crops in many regions. From the beginning of April to mid-June, notably drier conditions were observed, with a precipitation anomaly exceeding -50% and below compared to the long-term average from 1991 to 2022.

Prolonged and intensified drought conditions have a negative impact on most of agricultural crops and their development. Crops currently are in growing and development phase, so the lack of rainfalls will result in remarkable crop losses. Fruit and vegetable growers are also affected by drought conditions.

The impact of adverse weather conditions is further exacerbated by the consequences of the ongoing war in Ukraine launched by Russia, rising resource prices, scarcity of raw materials and fertilizers at affordable prices, and other circumstances.

Considering the complex situation in the agricultural sector, caused by various factors, we call upon the Commission to evaluate and establish the following derogations within the framework of the CAP:

1. to provide an option for land lying fallow, green manure areas, buffer strips and field margins declared for the fulfilment of the GAEC 8 standard (Minimum share of agricultural area devoted to non-productive areas or features) to be used also for grazing or fodder production **in 2023**, thus ensuring the availability of feed.
2. to grant rights to Member States for further authorization **in 2023** to allow farmers to utilize land lying fallow, green manure, catch crops areas and buffer strips declared for support under eco-schemes and agri-environmental measures for grazing or fodder production, while retaining their eligibility for eco-scheme and agri-environmental support.

3. to provide greater flexibility in soil preparation for crop cultivation during the autumn and winter period of **2023/2024** when applying the GAEC 6 standard,
 4. to review and adjust the ratio of permanent grassland **in 2024** to take into account farmers' needs to expand the areas utilized in production, which is necessary for increasing market income and partially compensating for the losses incurred in that year.
 5. continue to apply the derogations specified in Commission Implementing Regulation 2022/1317 **in 2024**:
 - recognizing the areas used for crop cultivation for food production for several consecutive years in 2023 and 2024 as meeting the requirements of GAEC 7 standard,
 - allowing crop cultivation for food production and permitting the use of plant protection products on land lying fallow allocated to meet the requirement of minimum share of agricultural area devoted to non-productive areas or features under GAEC 8 standard.
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