



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 7 June 2012

10839/12

CRS CSA 14

SUMMARY RECORD

**Subject : 1431st meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA)
held in Horsens (Denmark) on 4 June 2012**

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1. **Adoption of the provisional agenda**

10646/12 OJ CSA 14

The agenda was approved.

I

2. **Summary record of the 1430th meeting of the SCA**

10599/12 CRS CSA 13

The Special Committee on Agriculture approved the summary record.

II

3. **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*
10604/12 AGRI 360 AGRIFIN 97 CODEC 1494

1. The SCA further considered the issue of **Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs)** and noted the Presidency's summary of the discussion, the main points of which were as follows:

- The Presidency suggested amendments set out in doc. 9804/12 were broadly considered as a big step forward.
- There was very large support for exempting smaller farms from the requirement to maintain EFAs. Many delegations want to raise the suggested 10 ha threshold to 15 ha. Many delegations want to have the same threshold applied both for crop diversification and for EFAs.
- There was broad support for the Presidency suggestions to widen the scope of the areas that can be counted as EFAs.
- Many delegations supported the suggestion that areas and/or crops cultivated without nitrogen fertilisation could also be counted as EFAs.
- Requests were noted for further widening the scope by including other crops, to be defined at a later stage (particularly permanent crops, leguminous, protein, waterlogged and soil-improving crops, crops grown on terraces and clover).

- A number of delegations suggested that not only arable land but also permanent grassland and landscape features on permanent grassland should be taken into account for fulfilling the EFA requirement.
- The suggestion that areas which are used for particularly sustainable agricultural production could also be considered as Ecological Focus Areas was noted.
- There was broad interest for the suggestion that it should also be possible to maintain Ecological Focus Areas partly at regional level. In this respect the ideas about maintaining EFAs collectively by groups of farmers were also noted. The need for further discussion and clarification of such a mechanism was noted.
- The SCA also noted the comments made by the Commission representative.

2. The SCA further considered the issue of **permanent grassland** and noted the Presidency's summary of the discussion, the main points of which were as follows:

- There was broad support for the Presidency suggested amendments set out in doc. 10604/12 (and clarified during the meeting) to improve the definition of permanent grassland. However, the reservations of many delegations on the 10 year requirement were noted.
- On eligible area, there was broad support to include the possibility to apply a reduction coefficient for areas with established local grazing practices. Requests for further clarification were noted.
- The discussion reconfirmed the very large support for keeping the requirement on maintaining permanent grassland at national or regional level.
- The SCA also noted the comments made by the Commission representative.

4. **Organisation of future work**

The Presidency informed the SCA on the preparation for the next meeting on 11 June 2012.