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THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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11277/12

CRS CSA 15

SUMMARY RECORD

**Subject : 1432nd meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA)
held in Brussels on 11 June 2012**

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1. **Adoption of the provisional agenda**

10817/12 OJ CSA 15

The agenda was approved.

I

2. **Summary record of the 1431st meeting of the SCA**

10839/12 CRS CSA 14

The Special Committee on Agriculture approved the summary record.

3. **Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the European Innovation Partnership 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability'**

- *Adoption of the draft Council conclusions*

10833/12 AGRI 375 AGRISTR 79 AGRIORG 96 ENV 458 RECH 213 ALIM 11
COMPET 370

The SCA approved the I-item as set out on the agenda, details are contained in the documents quoted.

II

4. **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**

- *Approval of the final text*

10958/12 AGRI 394 AGRIFIN 103 CODEC 1571 OC 298

+ ADD 1

+ ADD 2

The SCA confirmed by qualified majority the draft Regulation (doc. 10958/12 ADD 1), together with the Council Statement (doc. 10958/12 ADD 2) and thus authorised the Chair of the SCA to send a letter to the Chair of the EP Committee on Agriculture stating that should the European Parliament adopt its position at first reading in the form set out in doc. 10958/12 ADD 1 (subject, if necessary, to revision by the legal linguists of both institutions), the Council would approve the European Parliament's position.

The SCA further noted the intention of Slovenia and Malta to submit a statement to be entered into the minutes of Council.

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*
10921/12 AGRI 389 AGRIFIN 102 CODEC 1563

To follow up on the discussion on greening at the SCA meeting on 4 June 2012, the SCA considered further Presidency suggested amendments (doc. 10921/12.)

The SCA noted the Presidency's summary of the discussion, the main points of which were as follows:

- Many delegations considered the Presidency suggested amendments set out in doc. 10921/12 as an important step forward although a number of delegations considered further work was needed on the detail and also on the overall approach. The scrutiny reserves entered by a number of delegations were noted.
- On "green by definition" (Article 29), delegations' requests for review and further clarification were noted, particularly on the conditions to be fulfilled to ensure the equivalent greening effect of commitments under Pillar II or national/regional environmental certification schemes. The support for implementing rather than delegated acts for further specifying those conditions was also noted. There were also further suggestions for greater flexibility, particularly as regards holdings subject to certain Natura 2000 requirements, areas of land on the farm rather than the whole farm and for a lower area threshold for permanent grassland. A few delegations questioned the overall contribution this provision would make to greening. The openness of the Commission representative to provide further clarifications on the issue of equivalence was also noted.

- On permanent grassland (Articles 4 and 31), there was broad support for the adjusted definition and for the combined regional/national/farm approach, but many reserves were noted on the suggested stricter requirements at farm level.
- On crop diversification (Article 30), there was broad support for the wider crop definition. The requests for clarification were noted, together with the requests for further flexibility,
- On Ecological Focus Areas (Article 32), the requests for further clarification were noted, particularly as regards the combined regional/farm level approach and the fulfilment of obligations by groups of farmers. There were also concerns about the administrative burden implied, particularly as regards monitoring the non-use of fertilisers and pesticides. Suggestions for further flexibility were noted, particularly as regards the proposed 7 % , as well as to widen the scope to take account of other areas including Natura 2000 areas and areas covered with permanent crops and soil-improving crops.

6. **CAP Reform – Presidency Progress report**

- (i) **Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing rules for direct payment to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the common agricultural policy (the direct payments regulation)**
15396/3/11 REV 3 AGRI 679 AGRIFIN 87 CODEC 1656
- (ii) **Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common organisation of the market in agricultural products (the Single CMO regulation)**
15397/2/11 REV 2 AGRI 680 AGRIFIN 88 AGRIORG 178 CODEC 1657
- (iii) **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) (the rural development regulation)**
15425/11 AGRISTR 57 CODEC 1665
+ REV 1 (en, fr, de)
- (iv) **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)**
15426/11 AGRI 684 AGRISTR 58 AGRIORG 181 AGRIFIN 92 CODEC 1666
+ REV 1 (en, fr, de)
+ REV 2 (da, pt)

- (v) **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 as regards the application of transitional measures in respect of the year 2013**

15398/11 AGRI 681 AGRIFIN 89 CODEC 1658

+ REV 1 (sl)

+ REV 2 (nl, pt, cs, lv, pl, ro)

- (vi) **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council modifying Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 establishing a common organization of agricultural markets and on specific provisions for certain agricultural products (Single CMO Regulation) as regards the regime of the single payment scheme and support to vine-growers**

15399/11 AGRI 682 AGRIORG 179 AGRIFIN 90 CODEC 1659

- *Presentation by the Presidency*

8949/12 AGRI 244 AGRIORG 90 AGRIFIN 72 AGRISTR 50

CODEC 1036

The SCA took note of the Presidency progress report (doc. 8949/12) and of the Presidency's intention to present this report to the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") at its session on 18 June 2012.

The SCA also noted the views expressed by a number of delegations, as well as the comments made by the Commission representatives.

7. **OIV**

- (a) **Article 4 of the OIV Internal Rules of Procedure (Particular Status)**

- *Information from the Presidency*

9199/12 AGRI 257 AGRIORG 68

10734/12 AGRI 365 AGRIORG 91

The SCA took note of the outcome of the discussion in the Working Party on the information given by the Commission of its intention to launch exploratory talks with the OIV for a particular status to be granted to the EU within the OIV as reflected in document 10734/12 and of the broad support of delegations on the Commission's initiative.

(b) **Preparation of the 10th General Assembly of the OIV (Izmir, Turkey, 22 June 2012)**

- *Approval of the draft Council decision establishing the position to be adopted on behalf of the EU with regard to certain resolutions to be voted in the framework of the OIV*

9294/12 AGRI 263 AGRIORG 69

10734/12 AGRI 365 AGRIORG 91

10792/12 AGRI 371 AGRIORG 93

The SCA took note of the report of the Working Party on the outcome of the discussion on the draft resolutions in step 7 to be submitted to the vote in the OIV General Assembly on 22 June (doc 10734/12 + COR 1).

In its discussion on the draft Council Decision (doc 10792/12), the SCA noted the information provided by the Commission representative that if the EU OIV Member States concerned were to vote in favour of the draft Council Decision in preparation for the OIV General Assembly to be held on 22 June 2012, he would recommend that the infringement procedures launched last year against certain EU Member States of the OIV should not be pursued. In this light, the SCA noted that there seemed to be, together with the statement submitted by the Netherlands to be entered in the minutes of the Council, a qualified majority in favour of the draft Council Decision. The SCA further noted the scrutiny reserves entered by several delegations

The Presidency set a silent deadline of Wednesday 13 June 2012, 12.00, by which it would be presumed, unless the Secretariat had been notified otherwise, that delegations had lifted their scrutiny reserves and that the SCA had approved the draft Council decision for adoption by Council as an "A" point at its session on 18 June 2012.

8. **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of aromatised wine products**

- *Preparation for the first informal trilogue*
10767/12 AGRI 367 AGRIORG 92 WTO 211 CODEC 1529
+ ADD 1

The SCA took note of the outcome of the discussion in the Working Party reflected in document 10767/12 + ADD 1, of the qualified majority support for the Presidency suggested amendments to the Commission proposal, of the reserves entered by three delegations and of the scrutiny reserve entered by one delegation, as well as the Commission position.

The SCA therefore gave the Presidency the negotiating mandate based on the four column document set out in the Addendum to document 10767/12, with a view to the first informal trilogue.

9. **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Agricultural Product Quality Schemes**

- *Preparation of the next informal trilogue*
10843/12 AGRI 376 AGRIORG 97 AGRILEG 80 CODEC 1544

The Presidency invited delegations to give their support for a negotiation mandate for the trilogue with a view to reaching a first reading agreement with the European Parliament. The text of the proposed mandate is set out in 10843/12.

The Committee examined a number of persisting concerns among delegations and the Commission. These were in particular: the scope and definition of TSGs (Article 2.1 second paragraph and Article 3.3 respectively); the criteria for delegation of powers on optional quality terms (Articles 28, 28 new, 29b new and 29c new) and the case of no-opinion by a standing committee in Article 52(3).

The Presidency concluded on this item that a qualified majority could support the mandate for negotiation as presented in Annexes I and II of 10843/12 with the following additions:

- a declaration would be made by the Council on the issue of volume control as presented on page 3 of 10843/12 in the framework of an overall package;
- Article 27 new 1(c) would be replaced by the following text: "the term has a European dimension".

10. **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**

- *Information from the Presidency*

The Presidency informed Delegations about the outcome of the discussions with the European Parliament that took place at the third informal trilogue on 7 June on the organic farming dossier. The European Parliament rejected the current Presidency compromise text on Articles 16 and 21 allowing authorisations and withdrawal of substances and products to be used in organic farming under implementing acts while setting criteria under a delegated act. The Commission representative reiterated its support for this middle ground and balanced approach. The Presidency requested advice from the SCA on the alternative solution suggested by the European Parliament, i.e. to move the list of authorised substances and products into the basic act and to update it through the ordinary legislative procedure. This alternative option was not supported by the SCA nor by the Commission. The Presidency will inform the European Parliament accordingly.

11. **Organisation of future work**

The Presidency informed the SCA on the preparation for the Council session in Luxembourg on 18 June 2012.
