



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 20 June 2011 (22.06)
(OR. en,fr)**

11681/11

**AGRI 454
AGRIORG 103**

NOTE

from:	Presidency and the Italian delegation
to:	Council
Subject:	Future of the aid programme for the most deprived persons in the Union

Delegations will find attached a joint note from the Presidency and the Italian delegation, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 28 June 2011.

Since 1987, the programme of distribution of food products to the most deprived persons has enabled vital assistance to be given to the neediest groups of the Union's population.

In recent years, following the enlargement of the European Union, the need to distribute products free of charge through charities has increased significantly. According to data provided by the Commission, in 2008, more than 13 million people living in 18 Member States benefited from this support system while the number of citizens at risk from poverty is estimated at almost 80 million.

The allocation of food, carried out thanks to this programme, also allowed Community intervention stocks to be reduced, thus allowing certain objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy, laid down in the Treaty, to be achieved, namely stabilising markets and ensuring that supplies reach consumers at reasonable prices.

These principles were reiterated by the judgment of the General Court of 13 April 2011 (case T-576/08), which annulled Article 2 of and Annex II to Commission Regulation (EC) No 983/2008 of 3 October 2008 adopting the plan allocating to the Member States resources to be charged to the 2009 budget year for the supply of food from intervention stocks for the benefit of the most deprived persons in the Community. The Court did indicate, however, that the validity of allocations already made is not affected by the annulment of Article 2 of and Annex II to Regulation No 983/2008.

In view of the arguments outlined above, we ask the Commission to submit, as soon as possible, proposals to amend the current system to ensure its future continuity, given the programme's beneficial effects, both socially and in terms of objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy.

=====