

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 16 July 2010

11936/10

CRS CSA 8

SUMMARY RECORD

Subject: 1385th meeting of the SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE held in

Brussels on Monday 5 July 2010

SUMMARY

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5.	Organisation of future work.			

1. Adoption of the provisional agenda

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The agenda was approved.

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2. Summary Record of the 1384th meeting of the SCA

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The Special Committee on Agriculture approved the summary record.

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3. Presentation of the Work programme

The Presidency gave a brief oral presentation of its work programme that will be presented officially during the Council meeting on 12 July. It also recalled the SCA's updated working methods, set out in document 5952/10, as agreed during the Spanish Presidency following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty.

4. Preparation of the Council meeting on 12 July 2010

(a) Report of the High Level Group on Milk 11758/10 AGRI 254 AGRIORG 19

The SCA took note of the information provided by the Commission in relation to the main elements of the report of the High Level Group on Milk to be discussed during the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council of 12 July 2010.

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- (b) Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the German Alcohol Monopoly 11619/10 AGRI 246 AGRIORG 17
 - Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 (Single CMO Regulation) as regards the aid granted in the framework of the German Alcohol Monopoly 11620/10 AGRI 247 AGRIORG 18

The Commission, presented its report and the proposal.

With regard to the proposal, the Danish, French, Latvian and UK delegations entered parliamentary scrutiny reservations and the Cypriot and Slovenian delegations entered scrutiny reservations.

The Danish, Italian, Latvian, Netherlands and UK delegations (supported by the Cypriot <u>delegation</u>) requested clarifications as to the assessed impact of the proposal on alcohol producers in other Member States and (supported on this by Estonia) questioned the timing of the extension of the Monopoly.

The Czech, Danish and Netherlands delegations requested clarifications as to the possibility for Germany to transfer part of the funds used for the Monopoly into their rural development programmes after the end of the transitional period

The Commission representative explained that the agricultural bonded distilleries ("mediumsized" distilleries) would only be able to receive aid through the Monopoly until 31 December 2013. He insisted that although the aid granted to small-scale flat-rate distilleries, distillery users and fruit cooperative distilleries would be extended until 31 December 2017, the production of those distilleries benefiting from the aid would be local and limited to 60.000 hl per year. He also underlined that a number of assurances had been given by Germany relating to the phasing-out of the Monopoly.

Finally, as regards rural development, the Commission representative clarified that no supplementary funds would be allocated to Germany but that Germany would be able to change its rural development programmes so as to finance certain activities in order to alleviate the abolition of the Monopoly. He pointed out that every other Member State could avail itself of such an opportunity.

The <u>SCA</u> took note of the presentation of the report and of the proposal by the Commission and of the comments made by the Czech, Danish, German, Estonian, French, Italian, Cypriot, Latvian, Netherlands, Slovenian and UK delegations, looking forward to further discussion in the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council on 12 July 2010.

5. Organisation of future work

The Presidency informed the SCA on the upcoming meeting of the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council on 12 July 2010.

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