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European Union

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: The continuing difficult situation on agricultural markets as a result of the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the necessity of prolonging the EU preventive measures for certain products originating in Ukraine beyond 15 September

- Information from the Polish delegation, on behalf of the Bulgarian, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian and Slovak delegations

With a view to the meeting of the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 25 of July, the annex to this note contains a declaration from the Bulgarian, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian and Slovak delegations concerning the item under “any other business” on the above-mentioned subject.

Joint position

of the Ministers of Agriculture of Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia on the continuing difficult situation on agricultural markets as a result of the Russian aggression against Ukraine and the necessity of prolonging the EU preventive measures for certain products originating in Ukraine beyond 15 September 2023

Warsaw, 19 July 2023

We the Ministers of Agriculture of Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia call for prolongation of the preventive measures introduced by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1100 of 5 June 2023 on imports of wheat, maize, rapeseed and sunflower seeds originating in Ukraine.

The preventive measures, which have been in place since May this year, have made it possible to reduce pressure on local markets in our countries, while at the same time enabling the transit of Ukrainian goods to its traditional markets in non-EU countries. At the same time, within the framework of the so-called Joint Coordination Platform, work is underway to improve transit through our countries and to seek new channels for transport through the EU. This work is moving in the right direction, nevertheless it has still not reached a state that would enable the smooth export of additional quantities of Ukrainian goods which will certainly flow onto the markets of our countries as a result of the withdrawal of preventive measures on 15 September 2023. In case of the non-renewal of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, the current timeframe will certainly cause further market disruptions in our countries. The scale of excess quantities of grain and other agricultural products on the markets of our countries will be known only after the harvest, which will not be completed by 15 September 2023. Nevertheless, based on the first estimates, we can anticipate the increased volume of this year's harvest in some Member States. In the event that the preventive measure is not extended, this will have a profound impact in the frontline Member States on the prices and the storage capacity, which is essential for the grain to be harvested. Therefore, we believe that preventive measures should be prolonged at least until the end of the year.

Furthermore, we believe that the list of products covered by the preventive measures should remain open in order to allow for their use to effectively respond to similar problems in sectors other than cereals and oilseeds. Therefore, we call for a positive consideration of any requests to expand the product coverage of the preventive measures that in a separate procedure have already been, or may in the future be, submitted to the Commission.

Kiril Vatev, Minister of Agriculture and Food of Bulgaria

István Nagy, Minister of Agriculture of Hungary

Robert Telus, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Poland

Florin - Ionuț Barbu, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Romania

Jozef Bireš, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Slovakia
