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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Special Committee on Agriculture
Subject:	DG AGRI/USDA administrative arrangement on reinforcing the dialogue and enhancing collaboration on agricultural challenges <i>- Information from the Commission</i>

Delegations will find in Annex a note from the Commission services on the administration arrangement with the USDA to be dealt with at the meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture on 8 November 2021.

Administrative Arrangement Between the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission and the United States Department of Agriculture on reinforcing the dialogue and enhancing collaboration on agricultural challenges

An administrative arrangement was signed between the Directorate General for Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture on 3rd November 2021 with the purpose to develop collaborative and cooperative efforts for the exchange of knowledge and information and promote mutual understanding in the field of the global agricultural challenges. The confidence gained from such a dialogue should help avoid the divergences and irritants that could be the source of stronger conflicts and a hindrance to better economic relations.

The two sides are identifying a certain number of areas where cooperation could take place at technical level. The following subjects are of interest to the two sides:

- Sustainability and agriculture - Ways to enhance or recognize sustainability in various agricultural production systems, sustaining vibrant rural communities, resource management, environment and biodiversity, conservation, research and innovation and other related issues.
- Climate and agriculture - Approaches to improving greenhouse gas emissions mitigation in agriculture, carbon sequestration, climate adaptation strategies/improving climate resilience of agricultural production systems, research and innovation and other related issues.
- Agri-food exchanges - Food systems resilience, communication, production food supply chains, and other related issues.

The administrative arrangement is not intended to create rights or obligations under international or domestic law and does not have any financial implications on either side.

The type of envisaged activities include:

- Exchange of information regarding policies and regulations, governance models, and other related issues;

- Joint activities such as the organisation of and participation in seminars, workshops, and meetings to share information and practices, reach out to key stakeholders, and promote ties between the agricultural sectors of both sides;
 - Visits and exchanges to agricultural sites and facilities involving producers, policymakers, regulators, academic institutions, communities and businesses and civil society;
 - Cooperate on sustainable and climate-smart agriculture, consider varying approaches to common goals and promote mutual understanding;
 - Facilitate exchanges on programs that support rural and underserved communities and their sustainable development, including through innovation and applied research;
 - Identify opportunities for collaboration to raise climate and environmental ambition in agriculture and land use through research and innovation; and
 - Other activities envisaged by both sides and pertaining to the purpose of this administrative arrangement.
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