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European Union

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13980/21
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DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Agriculture and Fisheries)
15 November 2021

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1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in 13586/21.

2. Approval of "A" items

Non-legislative list

13601/21

The Council adopted the "A" items listed in 13432/21, including COR and REV documents presented for adoption. Statements to these items are set out in the Addendum.

For the following item, the documents should read as follows:

Fisheries

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Council Regulation amending Council Regulation (EU) 2021/90 fixing for 2021 the fishing opportunities in the Mediterranean and Black Seas
<i>Adoption</i>
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 12.11.2021 | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">C</div> 12915/21
13125/21
+ COR 1 (hr)
PECHE |
|---|---|

AGRICULTURE

Non-legislative activities

- | | |
|--|--|
| 3. Conclusions on the new EU Forest strategy for 2030
<i>Approval</i> | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">[2]</div> 13537/21
+ ADD 1-2
10914/21 + ADD 1 |
|--|--|

The Council approved Conclusions on the New EU Forest Strategy for 2030 as set in 13537/21.

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 4. Market situation
<i>Information from the Commission</i>
<i>Exchange of views</i> | 13702/1/21 REV 1 |
|---|------------------|

Any other business

Agriculture

5. a) **Farm to Fork conference 2021: Building sustainable food systems together (Brussels, 14-15 October 2021)** [2] 13434/21
Information from the Commission

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission on the second Farm to Fork Conference: 'Building sustainable food systems' together. The Council also took note of the comments made by the delegations and of the Commission's response.

Fisheries

- b) Fishing opportunities 2022: Fish stocks shared with the UK 13666/21
Information from the Presidency and the Commission

Agriculture

- c) **EU Pollinator Week (27-30 September 2021)** [2] 13758/21
Information from the Presidency

The Council took note of the information provided by the Presidency on the EU Pollinator Week. The Council also took note of the comments made by the delegations and of the Commission's response.

- d) Crisis in the pigmeat sector 13773/21
Information from the Lithuanian delegation, supported by the Austrian, Belgian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Cyprus, Czech, Estonian, French, Greek, Hungarian, Latvian, Polish and Slovak delegations
- e) Communication on a contingency plan for ensuring food supply and food security in times of crisis 13761/21
Presentation by the Commission

- | | | |
|----|--|------------------|
| f) | Update on negotiations for agriculture running up to the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (Geneva, 30 November - 3 December 2021)
<i>Information from the Commission</i> | 13468/1/21 REV 1 |
| g) | Effects of the volcanic eruption on the island of La Palma on local agriculture, and need for support to farmers
<i>Information from the Spanish delegation</i> | 13347/21 |
| h) | Difficulties handling the populations of brown bears and wolves
<i>Information from the Slovak delegation, supported by the Austrian, Czech, Finnish, German and Romanian delegations</i> | 13175/21 |
| i) | Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Visegrad Group (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia) and Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania on the need for a transparent procedure for the adoption of the CAP strategic plans and to make the new delivery model functional
<i>Information from the Hungarian delegation, on behalf of the Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian and Slovak delegations</i> | 13652/21 |



Item based on a Commission proposal



Public debate proposed by the Presidency (Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)

Statements to the "B" items set out in doc. 13586/21**Ad "B" item 3:** **Conclusions on the new EU Forest strategy for 2030**
*Approval***STATEMENT BY PORTUGAL, FRANCE AND SPAIN**
in relation to paragraph 12

- “1. As stated in the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank ‘A stronger and renewed strategic partnership with the EU’s outermost regions’, the nine outermost regions constitute an extraordinary asset for the European Union (EU), as they enrich the EU economically, culturally and geographically, and provide both a strategic access to the sea and unique natural assets, hosting 80% of the Union’s biodiversity.
2. Therefore, Portugal, France and Spain view the reference to the Outermost Regions in the Council Conclusions on the new EU Forest Strategy for 2030 (paragraph 12) as a way to further stress the need to respect, protect and maintain the diversity and specificity of the outermost regions’ biodiversity and forest ecosystems.”

STATEMENT BY LUXEMBOURG
in relation to paragraph 7

“Forests play a key role in two major challenges for humanity, namely climate change and the loss of biodiversity.

The new EU Forest Strategy for 2030 defines the framework for action aimed at ensuring the growth, health, diversification and resilience of forests in the EU so that they can contribute significantly to our ambitions for biodiversity and the fight against climate change.

Non-resilient forests in a poor state of health are no longer able to play a multifunctional role and provide the various associated ecosystem services.

To remedy that, we need a forest strategy which prioritises making European forests resilient, healthy and diversified and which will give them a favourable conservation status in terms of biodiversity. This is a prerequisite for forests to be able to fulfil their socio-economic functions, in particular their productive function, for the coming decades. In this context, in Luxembourg’s view, the measures proposed by the European Commission are the right ones to achieve these objectives, while fully respecting the principle of subsidiarity.

Luxembourg considers that the abovementioned Strategy strikes the right balance between the three pillars of sustainable development in order to unlock the potential of European forests for the future and to realise this vision of a resilient, healthy and biodiverse forest that will yield economic, social and environmental benefits for current and future generations.

In relation to the above, Luxembourg is not convinced about the wording ‘EMPHASISES that the Communication would need a balanced vision on the different dimensions of sustainability’ in paragraph 7 in these Council conclusions.”

**STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION
in relation to paragraph 13**

“EU forests and sustainable forest management are crucial for the European Green Deal. While the Treaties do not explicitly mention ‘forest policy’, the EU has a range of competences that may relate to forests such as climate, environment, rural development, and disaster prevention. The EU has already exercised these competences, and forests are covered by a number of legal texts. Within these areas of shared EU competences, forests and forestry do not fall within the exclusive competence of Member States. The choice of the correct legal basis must be made on a case-by-case basis and be founded on objective factors, including, in particular, the aim and content of the measure. Legal instruments need to pass the test of subsidiarity.”
