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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Proposal for a REGULATION ON THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the sustainable use of plant protection products and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 - comments on "sensitive areas" from Ireland

With a view to the Working Party on Plant and Plant Health Questions on 3 November 2022, delegations will find in annex comments from Ireland on the above subject.

Comments from Ireland

Note: Ireland has an overall scrutiny reservation on the proposed Regulation.

Article 18 and article 3(16):

General comments:

Ireland shares the concerns expressed that the definition as currently written in article 3(16) appears to be too broad and is unclear. Therefore, the draft excel table circulated to outline the details further is welcome and will be further considered.

Ireland agrees with the suggestion that a definition is not required.

Article 18 (1)

The title of article 18 should be reworded to “Use of plant protection products in specific areas”. The wording of article 18 (1) could then be re-drafted to specify the specific areas where restriction or prohibition of PPP use is required/warranted as part of this Regulation taking into account the existing criteria and measures in Regulation (EC) No.1107 of 2009.

There would therefore be no requirement for the definition as is in article 3(16).

Further consideration will be given to suggested alternative text for article 18(1) when the above-mentioned excel table is further analysed.

Article 18(3): The text relating to a derogation should be re-drafted as necessary following completion of the text of article 18(1) above. Note that a derogation may be required for an indigenous pest/disease and not only quarantine pests or invasive alien species.