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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB item for the meeting of the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council on 26-27 October 2026: Extension of the exceptional temporary EAFRD support to cover increased agricultural costs - Information from Italy, supported by Cyprus, Czechia, Romania and Slovakia

The crisis in the Middle East and the resulting instability in energy markets continue to affect the production costs of European farms, as highlighted by several Member States at the AGRIFISH Council meeting of September 28th, 2026. Energy prices, particularly those of fuels used in agriculture, remain under significant pressure, with a consequent adverse impact on farm profitability.

Regulation (EU) 2026/1768 introduced, through Article 78-*b* of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, an exceptional temporary form of EAFRD support limited to the increased costs of fertilisers. It should be noted that, in recital 1, Regulation (EU) 2026/1768 acknowledges that the crisis in the Middle East and the *de facto* closure of the Strait of Hormuz have led to significant increases in global prices of oil, gas and fertilisers.

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/1894, concerning the activation of the 2026 agricultural reserve, has already adopted a wider approach, allowing Member States to compensate farmers most severely affected by rising costs associated with fertiliser prices, energy prices, or both. A similar approach should therefore be adopted for the exceptional temporary EAFRD support, by lifting the current restriction to fertilisers costs and extending its scope to cover increased agricultural fuel costs. This would ensure a more comprehensive and flexible response to the consequences of the crisis.

In light of the above, the Commission is invited to submit without delay a proposal for a targeted amendment to Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, with special regard to Article 78-*b*, as introduced by Regulation (EU) 2026/1768, with a view to extend EAFRD support to cover the increased fuel costs incurred by farmers. The amendment would allow Member States to activate such support on a voluntary basis within their respective CAP Strategic Plans, in accordance with their specific production and territorial needs.