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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: **AOB item for the meeting of the “Agriculture and Fisheries” Council on 21-22 October 2024.**  
Need to address the imminent risk of decommitment for rural development programmes  
*- Information from the Slovak delegation*

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Delegations will find in the Annex a note from the Slovak delegation on the above-mentioned subject, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 21-22 October 2024.

**Need to address the imminent risk of decommitment for rural development programmes**

Article 38 of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 establishes an automatic decommitment mechanism for rural development programmes, known as the N+3 rule. It requires that funds committed in a given year must be used by the end of the third year following that commitment. As a result, commitments made in 2021 must be utilized by 31 December 2024, or they will be decommitted.

As of 30 September 2024, 11 Member States, including Slovakia, face an imminent risk of automatic decommitment. Despite enormous efforts made by our Managing Authority in years 2023 and 2024, with measures currently at hand we might not be able to avert the decommitment in 2024.

We ask the European Commission to help us find a common and effective solution to the above-mentioned situation, which has arisen due to circumstances beyond the control of Member States. In today's difficult situation, we cannot allow losing funds that were intended for our farmers.

