



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 24 October 2012

15150/12

CRS CSA 24

SUMMARY RECORD

**Subject : 1441st meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA)
held in Brussels on 15 October 2012**

SUMMARY

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1. **Adoption of the provisional agenda**
14858/12 OJ CSA 24

The agenda was approved.

I

2. **Summary record of the 1440th meeting of the SCA**
14764/12 CRS CSA 23

The SCA approved the summary record.

II

3. **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products (Single CMO Regulation) (CAP Reform)**

- Extension of rules and financial contributions
- Incorporation of the milk package
 - *Information from the Presidency*
15397/2/11 REV 2 AGRI 680 AGRIFIN 88 AGRIORG 178 CODEC 1657
- *Extension of rules and financial contributions*

The SCA took note of the broad support for the Commission proposal as concerns the extension of rules and financial contributions to non-members (Articles 110 and 111) on condition that the milk and milk products sector was excluded from the scope. The SCA further took note of the continued concerns of a few delegations.

The SCA also took note of the Presidency's intention to reflect the outcome of this discussion in a slightly modified text of the draft Regulation.

- *Incorporation of the milk package*

The SCA took note that, after consultation of delegations the Presidency considered that the broad support for its suggested text set out in document 13840/12 had been confirmed without the need for further amendment at this stage.

4. **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing rules for direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the common agricultural policy**

- Internal convergence
 - *Orientation debate*
 - Young Farmers Scheme
 - *Information from the Presidency*
- 15396/3/11 REV 3 AGRI 679 AGRIFIN 87 CODEC 1656

On the **Young Farmers Scheme**, the SCA took note of the Presidency's intention for Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") to address the issue of the nature of the scheme at its session on 22-23 October 2012.

The SCA took also note of the comments made by several delegations, most of which reiterated their preference for a voluntary scheme.

On the issue of **Internal Convergence**, the SCA noted the Presidency's summary, the main points of which were as follows:

- Further to the clarifications provided by the Commission representative on the scope of discretion open to Member States in defining the regions to which they could apply the basic payment scheme at regional level (Article 20(1) of the proposal), although a few delegations considered that this could potentially bring some relief in situations where it is possible to define homogeneous groupings of farmers within a particular region, many others did not consider this option to be a sufficient or feasible solution to their specific problems. Some further underlined that regionalisation needed to remain consistent with the principle of decoupling and with WTO rules.
- On progress already achieved towards uniform per hectare payments, delegations from Member States applying the regional or hybrid model generally confirmed that, as a matter of principle, progress made was irreversible. Some delegations however underlined that the proposal did not sufficiently recognise the significant degree of convergence achieved, and implied a substantial shift in payments in certain sectors.

- Many delegations underlined the need for flexibility, with some indicating that this implied particularly an adjusted first step in 2014 and/or a longer transition period. Others however indicated that flexibility had to remain within the period to 2019.
- On the suggested option for Member States to limit the number of eligible hectares to the potential agricultural area established by the Commission in 2009, while there was support from a number of delegations, others were open to addressing the concerns of delegations in this regard. Several delegations considered that a later reference year or the possibility to choose a reference period themselves would be more appropriate.
- A number of delegations also reiterated more general views on internal convergence, particularly the need for consistency with the principle of decoupling and the need for a parallel approach on internal and external convergence. Delegations from Member States applying the Single Area Payment Scheme underlined that their understanding for the flexibility requested by Member States applying the Single Payment Scheme was conditional on finding a satisfactory arrangement for their transition to the new basic payment scheme, including the possibility to take account of national top-ups and current Article 68 payments.

The SCA further took note of:

- the scrutiny reserves by a number of delegations and the comments made by the Commission representative;
- the Presidency's intention to return to these issues at the next session of the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") at the next session of 22-23 October.

5. **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural development (EAFRD)**

- Investments in irrigation
- *Information from the Presidency*
 - 15425/1/11 REV 1 AGRISTR 57 CODEC 1665
 - 14840/12 AGRI 661 AGRISTR 136 CODEC 2362

The SCA took note of the presentation by the Presidency of the new revised text and of delegations' comments.

6. **Organisation of future work**

The Presidency informed the SCA on the preparation for the Council "Agriculture and Fisheries" on 22-23 October 2012 in Luxembourg.
