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Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION amending Regulation (EU) No 1370/2013 determining measures on fixing certain aids and refunds related to the common organisation of the markets in agricultural products, as regards the quantitative limitation for buying-in skimmed milk powder - Adoption

Lithuania's statement on Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 1370/2013 determining measures on fixing certain aids and refunds related to the common organisation of the markets in agricultural products, as regards the quantitative limitation for buying-in skimmed milk powder

Lithuania understands the complexity of the situation in the skimmed milk powder (SMP) sector. Huge stocks of almost 400 000 tonnes were accumulated through public intervention and only very small quantities were sold so far by the tender procedure. This still puts substantial pressure on the market. However, considering the effectiveness of the measure during the recent dairy crisis it has proved to be a very important *safety net* measure.

The primary objective on solving the problem in the SMP sector should be the quick realisation of accumulated stocks of SMP, rather than abeyance of the *safety net* measure. From Lithuania's point of view, the potential future purchase threshold of 109,000 t, which is fixed in the Council Regulation (EU) No 1370/2013, is a minimum *safety net* which can not in any circumstances be weakened or renounced.

Therefore, Lithuania is of the position that the current rules for the buying-in for SMP should be maintained. Lithuania urges the Commission to look for all the possibilities to sell or utilize the quantities of SMP accumulated in intervention stock.
