



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 5 November 2012

15597/12

CRS CSA 25

SUMMARY RECORD

**Subject : 1442nd meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA)
held in Brussels on 29 October 2012**

SUMMARY

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1. **Adoption of the provisional agenda**

15461/12 OJ CSA 25

The agenda was approved.

I

2. **Summary record of the 1441st meeting of the SCA**

15150/12 CRS CSA 24

The SCA approved the summary record.

3. **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs (first reading) (LA + S)**

- *Adoption of the legislative act*

PE-CONS 41/12 AGRI 456 AGRIORG 112 AGRILEG 102 CODEC 1805
OC 373

+ COR 1 (bg,cs,it,nl,pl,pt,sk,sv)

+ COR 2 (da)

+ COR 3 (el)

+ REV 1 (ro)

15264/1/12 CODEC 2452 AGRI 693 AGRIORG 171 AGRILEG 149

OC 578 REV 1 + ADD 1 REV 1

The SCA approved the I-item as set out on the agenda, details are contained in the documents quoted.

II

4. **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down specific measures for agriculture in the outermost regions of the Union**

- *Presidency briefing on the outcome of the informal trilogue*

14118/12 AGRI 610 POSEICAN 6 POSEIDOM 7 POSEIMA 7 CODEC 2205

The SCA took note of the Presidency's briefing on the second informal trilogue.

5. **Proposal for a Regulation (EU) No .../ of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down specific measures in favour of agriculture in the smaller Aegean islands**

- *Presidency briefing on the outcome of the informal trilogue*

14419/12 AGRISTR 132 CODEC 2269 AGRIORG 160 AGRIFIN 180
REGIO 105

The SCA took note of the Presidency's briefing on the second informal trilogue.

6. Greening

- **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 (*CAP Reform*)**
- **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)**
 - Equivalence and baseline
 - *Orientation debate*

10890/12 AGRI 386 AGRIFIN 101 CODEC 1555

10878/1/12 REV 1 AGRI 381 AGRISTR 81 CODEC 1552

15525/12 AGRI 708 AGRIFIN 197 CODEC 2496

Equivalence

On the issue of **equivalence of greening practices**, the SCA noted the Presidency's summary, the main elements of which were as follows:

- A very large number of delegations , while acknowledging that the Danish Presidency consolidated text went into the right direction, wanted to extend, adjust or further specify the equivalence concept, in particular on the basis of ensuring an equivalent level of additional benefits for the environment. Some delegations underlined the importance of ensuring the same level of benefits across the EU or were concerned about making fulfilment of greening too easy.
- Many delegations wanted to see a wider concept of equivalence being applied to the three proposed greening practices. Some found the concept useful in the context of certification schemes and others for qualifying farms in whole or in part as green by definition.
- Some delegations suggested that *ipso facto* greening should, in addition to organic farmers, also apply to farmers implementing 2nd pillar Agri- Environment/Climate Measures (AECMs) on a significant proportion of their farmed land, as well as to farmers involved in sufficiently ambitious certification schemes.

- Some delegations wanted to better acknowledge the efforts made by farmers whose holdings are only partially subject to AECMs or other green by definition practices, or who have at least a certain percentage of their agricultural area situated in Natura 2000 zones or covered by forest, by exempting the respective areas from one or more of the proposed greening requirements.
- A number of delegations, while underlining that Member States' specificities should be taken into account, saw an important role for the Commission in rule-setting and validation with regard to equivalence. Several delegations agreed that national or regional certification schemes should be subject to *ex ante* validation by the Commission. Others suggested that AECMs acceptable for equivalence purposes could be validated by the Commission when approving Member States' rural development programmes. Several delegations underlined the need to avoid delays and overly complicated procedures.

The SCA also noted the delegations' other comments and the comments made by the Commission representative.

Baseline

On the issue of **baseline**, the SCA noted the Presidency's summary, the main elements of which were as follows:

- Many delegations still object to the inclusion of greening in the baseline for second pillar agri-environment and climate measures and do not consider that double funding would be a problem.
- Some delegations also noted that the approach should be consistent, and if greening is not included in the baseline for organic farming, Natura 2000 and the Water Framework Directive measures under the 2nd pillar, it should not be included in the baseline for agri-environment and climate measures either.

- A number of delegations stated that greening must be part of the **baseline** in order to ensure that commitments under the second pillar go beyond mandatory **greening** requirements. The Commission repeated that, from a legal point of view, double funding is not justifiable.
- Some delegations acknowledged that the concept of green by definition or green *ipso facto* as well as a broader definition of equivalence based on the same level of environmental benefit are steps in the right direction from the point of view of addressing the issue of the second pillar baseline.
- Many delegations stressed that there is need for further clarification on the equivalence of certain parts of the commitment under the 2nd pillar, with the greening requirement of the 1st pillar.

The SCA took note of delegations' views and of the Commission's reply.

7. Organisation of future work

The Presidency informed the SCA on the preparation of its next meeting on 5 November 2012.
