Council of the European Union

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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 23 November 2026: Upward revision of the national caps for de minimis aid applicable to the primary sector - Information from Spain, supported by Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Romania and Slovenia

Spain, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Romania and Slovenia express their concern about the increasing difficulties in providing swift and sufficient support to the agri-food sector, especially in situations such as the current geopolitical context, marked by increasingly frequent successive crises.

Supporting the sector in such situations is a means of ensuring business viability and thus maintaining the productive fabric and employment, as well as the provision of public goods offered by both the agricultural and fisheries sectors, ranging from landscape preservation and environmental protection to retaining the population in rural and coastal areas and the proper redistribution of income. The agri-food and fisheries sectors are strategic because of their economic and social importance and their contribution to territorial cohesion, apart from their key role in providing food security for the population by supplying the most essential products, food.

De minimis aid plays a crucial role in supporting this sector, especially due to its speed, flexibility and reduced administrative burden. This scheme makes it possible to provide effective, targeted and tailored responses to short-term financing needs, avoiding administrative burden and delays and facilitating a tailor-made design of measures.

In the case of the agricultural, fisheries and aquaculture sectors, the *de minimis* Regulations set individual ceilings per beneficiary which are much lower than those provided for in the general *de minimis* Regulation (Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2831 of 13 December). In addition, both *de minimis* Regulations for Agriculture (Commission Regulation (EU) No 1408/2013 of 18 December) and Fisheries and Aquaculture (Commission Regulation (EU) No 717/2014 of 27 June) also establish national caps.

Recent crises have shown that these limits, both the individual ceilings and especially the national caps, are insufficient and will limit the ability to respond rapidly to future disruptions.

Accordingly, Spain, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Romania and Slovenia call upon the Commission to revise upwards the national caps laid down in the *de minimis* Regulations applicable to the primary sector, so as to enable a faster response to investment and innovation needs and sectoral pressures, while maintaining the balance, proportionality and simplicity of *de minimis* aid.