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European Union

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**NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Eligibility of support for the development of rural areas and the agri-food industry under the Recovery and Resilience Facility and National Reconstruction Plans <i>- Information from the Polish delegation</i>

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Delegations will find in annex an information note from the Polish delegation on the above mentioned subject to be dealt with under "other business" at the meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture on 15 February 2021.

**Eligibility of support for the development of rural areas and the agri-food industry under the  
Recovery and Resilience Facility and National Reconstruction Plans  
(Recovery and Resilience Plans)**

The scope of application of the Recovery and Resilience Facility shall refer to policy areas related to economic, social and territorial cohesion, the green and digital transitions, health, competitiveness, resilience, productivity, education and skills, research and innovation, smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, jobs and investment, and the stability of the financial systems.

In order to access to the funds under the Recovery and Resilience Facility, Member States shall develop Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRPs). The Commission assesses RRP for their importance and coherence as well as its contribution to the green and digital transition.

In the Commission's guidelines on recovery plans (Commission Staff Working Document Guidance To Member States Recovery And Resilience Plans, SWD (2021) 12 final), examples of typical reforms and investments linked to the green transition include, inter alia, promoting sustainable food production and consumption, ensuring food safety and investing in infrastructure in the countryside. These guidelines clearly indicate that projects supporting the agri-food sector are eligible in terms of the use of RRF funds.

Meanwhile, during technical meetings regarding our RRP, the Commission services (representatives of the Recovery and Resilience Task Force - RECOVER) suggest that for the agricultural sector there are huge funds available under the CAP, that it is primarily the CAP that should be used to implement agricultural projects, and that the approval of allocation of RRF funds to the development of the agri-food sector and rural development may be difficult and requires special justification.

In view of the above and taking into account the approaching deadline for submitting the RRP for evaluation, Poland would like to ask the European Commission for **an opinion on the possibility of obtaining the RRF funds for supporting projects related to the agri-food sector and rural development.**

It also needs clarification whether the support for agriculture and rural areas within the Recovery and Resilience Plans will be problematic issue in contacts with the European Commission and in subsequent negotiations. And whether the inclusion of this type of support in the Recovery and Resilience Plans can affect the EC's decision to accept the Plan.