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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Council
Subject: Strategic Plans – state of play

With a view to the “Agriculture and Fisheries” Council on 25 April 2023, delegations will find in the Annex a Presidency note regarding the state of play of the CAP Strategic Plans.

CAP Strategic Plans – state of play

Following the agreement reached on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in 2021 and the end of the transitional period in 2022, the new CAP started on 1 January 2023. Member States' Strategic Plans, approved by the Commission in 2022, constitute the **backbone of the new CAP** and play a key role in its implementation.

While reflecting Member States' choice of measures that best meet the needs on the ground, the Strategic Plans set a framework of targets and action for putting into practice the important novelties of the new CAP in a time of multiple and rapidly changing challenges.

Those **novelties** comprise in particular a shift from a compliance to a performance based model offering Member States the freedom to design tailor-made interventions in line with their needs in full respect of a common framework of EU objectives, higher environmental and climate-related ambitions based in particular on an enhanced conditionality and eco-schemes, and direct support in order to better address the income needs of smaller and medium-sized farms.

The **challenges** repeatedly mentioned in the “Agriculture and Fisheries” Council that have an important impact on the agricultural sector and need to be taken into account, include, among others, the war in Ukraine, the challenges to global food security and affordability, the access to fertilisers, the soaring prices for energy and for other agricultural input and the need to adapt to increasingly difficult weather and climatic conditions. Ministers have also stressed the need for guidance and flexibility from the Commission to overcome possible implementation difficulties.

On 25 April 2023, the “Agriculture and Fisheries” Council will hold its **first discussion** on the Strategic Plans **since the start of the new CAP**. This will be an opportunity for Ministers to share their first experience with the implementation of their plans on the ground and the lessons learned so far, including with regard to what could be further improved to facilitate the Strategic Plans' implementation.

To guide the discussion at the “Agriculture and Fisheries” Council, the Presidency proposes the following two questions:

Q1: What are the most important lessons learned from the introduction of the strategic plans in Member States?

Q2: What could be done to further facilitate and improve the implementation of the strategic plans in the short and longer term?