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Subject:	Possible EU membership of the UN Food Systems Summit Coalition on Sustainable Productivity Growth: Presidency proposal for the way forward

Possible EU membership of the UN Food Systems Summit Coalition on Sustainable Productivity Growth: Presidency proposal for the way forward

At the meeting of the Working Party for International Food and Agricultural Questions (FAO) on 27 March 2023, the matter of a possible EU membership of the UN Food Systems Summit Coalition on Sustainable Productivity Growth was tabled for discussion¹.

The aim of the discussion was to determine whether the Coalition was primarily *administrative in nature* or predominantly *political in nature*. In the latter case, the coalition would have to be considered as a non-binding instrument and a possible EU membership would be subject to the procedure set out in the Arrangements for non-binding instruments agreed in December 2017 between the Secretaries-General of the Council, the European Commission and the European External Action Service².

¹ The discussion was based on the Presidency note set out in 7309/23

² ST 9511/22

The Commission representative expressed the view that the Coalition should be considered *administrative in nature* and explained the reasons why the Commission services considered it important and useful to participate in the Coalition. Delegations presented different perspectives and no conclusion was reached at the meeting.

In view of the above, the Presidency proposes the following way forward:

- at this stage, the Coalition can be considered as *not predominantly political in nature* and therefore the question of a possible EU membership does not have to be addressed;
- in spring 2024, the Working Party will review the development of the Coalition and assess whether it can still be considered to be not predominantly political in nature.