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**DRAFT MINUTES**  
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION  
(**Agriculture** and Fisheries)  
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## AGRICULTURE

### Non-legislative activities

#### **5. Situation on agricultural markets, in particular following the invasion of Ukraine<sup>1</sup>**

7710/22

*Information from the Commission and the Member States  
Exchange of views*

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission on the situation on agricultural markets, of delegations' comments and questions, and of the Commission's replies.

The Council will return to this issue at a forthcoming meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> Including an exchange with the Ukrainian Minister for Agrarian Policy and Food, Mykola Solsky.

**Statements relating to the non-legislative ‘A’ items set out in 7720/22****Ad ‘A’ item 2:****Conclusions on sustainable carbon cycles***Approval***STATEMENT BY GERMANY**

“Germany thanks the French Presidency of the Council for drafting council conclusions for the agricultural and forestry sectors on the European Commission Communication on Sustainable Carbon Cycles, which address an important subject within the scope of the “Fit for 55” package and the Farm to Fork Strategy.

Germany particularly welcomes the fact that the following questions were addressed:

- longevity and reversibility of CO<sub>2</sub> fixations;
- avoidance of carbon leakage;
- prevention of negative impacts on biodiversity; and
- avoidance of double counting in climate reporting.

By way of compromise, Germany agrees with the council conclusions for the agricultural and forestry sectors on the European Commission Communication on Sustainable Carbon Cycles but also points out that, from the German point of view, not all important aspects with regard to the concept of carbon farming and to the legal framework concerning certification announced by the European Commission were addressed with the required clarity. Germany also points out that the European Commission Communication on Sustainable Carbon Cycles has not yet been sufficiently dealt with by other committees and council configurations, especially by the Environment Council which is responsible for climate policies. From the German standpoint, these important aspects include:

- Welcoming Carbon Farming as the new green business model seems premature while the possible contributions under existing instruments, their financing and the many questions that arise regarding an environmentally sensitive implementation remain unresolved.
- A positive contribution to biodiversity should be the fundamental precondition for the certification and promotion of carbon farming measures.
- Carbon farming measures must not conflict with the EU biodiversity goals.
- Carbon farming measures should not only be restricted to the effect of carbon storage, but should also advance climate-friendly and biodiversity-enhancing farming systems and consequently provide impetus to transformation processes that lead to a permanent shift towards ecologically meaningful and climate-effective farming practices that focus on the ecosystem as a whole and on a large number of ecosystem services. The suitability of the planned certification system must be measured against these criteria.

- The relation of a new European certification system to private and national certification systems must be clarified in the legislative process.
- Carbon farming should be limited to the LULUCF sector. An extension to other sectors can be reviewed if this makes sense from a climate and environment policy viewpoint.
- With regard to the financing of carbon farming, an key demand of the German Federal Government is that no additional EU funding is used. The financial allowance must be based on standard and verifiable methods and measures for the integration of CO<sub>2</sub>, and for this, uniform standards must apply throughout the EU. Consideration should be given not only to storage capacity but also to the release of CO<sub>2</sub>.

This has no bearing on the fact that -in addition to strengthening the ability of natural ecosystems to deal with the climate crisis - a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions must be undertaken in all sectors in order to achieve the European Union's climate goals.

Germany will feed these important questions into the expert group which is intended to be set up by the European Commission to prepare the legal text, and will actively and constructively flank the discussion relating to the legal framework.”

Ad ‘A’ item 10:

**Council Decision on the EU position at COP 10 of the Rotterdam Convention as regards amendments of Annex III**

*Adoption*

Ad ‘A’ item 11:

**Council Decision on the EU position at COP 10 of the Stockholm Convention as regards the proposal for amendment of Annex A**

*Adoption*

## **STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION**

‘The Commission considers that the Council Decision should be addressed to the Commission, and therefore considers the changes to Article 3 to be inappropriate.

The expression of the Union position in a body set up by an agreement is an act of external representation of the Union which, in accordance with Article 17(1) TEU, is the institutional prerogative of the Commission.

The Commission reserves all its rights in this regard.’