



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 13 April 2012

8536/12

CRS CSA 7

SUMMARY RECORD

**Subject : 1424th meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA)
held in Brussels on 2 April 2012**

SUMMARY

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1. **Adoption of the provisional agenda**

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The agenda was approved.

I

2. **Summary record of the 1423rd meeting of the SCA**

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The Special Committee on Agriculture approved the summary record.

II

3. **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing rules for direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the common agricultural policy (CAP reform)**

- *Orientation debate*

15396/11 AGRI 679 AGRIFIN 87 CODEC 1656 + REV 1 + REV 2

The SCA discussed the issues of young farmers, small farmers, voluntary coupled support and capping of support to large farms with a view to preparing the orientation debate in the Council on 26-27 April 2012.

The SCA took note of the Presidency's summary, the main points of which were as follows:

- On the young farmers scheme there was broad support for the proposal while the political question of the mandatory or voluntary nature of the proposed scheme remained open for discussion at ministerial level. The suggestions made by delegations were noted. In this light the Presidency would present suggested amendments for consideration by the Working Party on Horizontal Agricultural Questions at its next meeting on 11 and 12 April 2012.
- On the small farmers scheme, broad support for the proposal was noted, it being understood that some delegations' positions depended on the political question of the mandatory or voluntary nature of the proposed scheme which remained open for discussion at ministerial level. The suggestions made by delegations were noted. In this light, the Presidency would present suggested amendments for consideration by the Working Party on Horizontal Agricultural Questions at its next meeting on 11 and 12 April 2012.

- On voluntary coupled support: there was broad support for the proposal. Delegations' other divergent views were noted.
- On capping of support to large farms: while the principle of capping remained open for discussion in the context of the ongoing discussions on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020, the concerns of a considerable number of delegations about the administrative burden implied by the proposed method were noted together with the suggestions of several delegations for a simpler approach.

The Presidency announced that the SCA would continue its discussion on the Direct Payments proposal on 16 April 2012, with focus on the definition of active farmer, payments to farmers in areas with natural constraints, the basic payments scheme and internal redistribution of direct payments.

Any other business

4. **Commission proposal to amend the Commission Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 laying down detailed rules for the vegetables and processed fruit and vegetables sectors**
- *Request from the Hungarian delegation*

The SCA took note of the concern raised by the Hungarian delegation regarding the revision of Commission Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 due to be voted in the Commission Management Committee on 3 April. This concern was shared by the CZ, EL, LT, LV, MT, PL, RO, SK, SI delegations.

The SCA also took note of the comment made by the Commission representative.

5. **Organisation of future work**

The Presidency informed the SCA on the organisation of its next meeting on 16 April 2012.