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**NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB for the meeting of the “Agriculture and Fisheries” Council on 26 May 2025: Serious damage caused by frost in the Hungarian fruit sector - Information from Hungary

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Between mid-March and mid-May, two major cold spells impacted several crop sectors across Eastern and Central Europe. In Hungary, exceptional frost damage was reported in fruit-growing regions. Nearly 90% of all frost-related damage reports from producers were linked to the severe frost wave in April, when temperatures dropped to as low as - 8° Celsius. The widespread damage was increased by the prolonged duration of the frost. Frost-protection interventions were ineffective in most places.

Apple, sour cherry, apricot, cherry, peach, plum, and pear plantations were all affected by frost damage. The assessment of the damage is currently ongoing. According to information provided by producers, as of today, the frost damaged more than 17 000 hectares of orchards and losses reached up to 80% or even 100% of the expected yield for certain crops in certain regions.

Concerning the circumstances, Hungary requests the European Commission to consider exceptional financial support from the agriculture reserve for the Hungarian fruit producers affected by recent adverse weather conditions.

Additionally, Hungary would like to emphasize the urgent need for a derogation from certain provisions of interventions in the fruit and vegetable sector under the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation, and recognition criteria of Producer Organisations in the fruit and vegetable sector.

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