



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 4 May 2012

9356/12

CRS CSA 10

SUMMARY RECORD

**Subject : 1427th meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA)
held in Brussels on 30 April 2012**

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1. **Adoption of the provisional agenda**

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The agenda was approved.

I

2. **Summary record of the 1426th meeting of the SCA**

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The Special Committee on Agriculture approved the summary record.

II

3. **CAP reform (Greening):**

(a) **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing rules for direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the frame work of the common agricultural policy**

The SCA discussed possible alternatives to the mandatory greening components proposed by the Commission with a view to preparing the orientation debate in the Council on 14-15 May 2012. In this context the SCA took note of the working document presented by the Luxembourg delegation (doc. 9283/12) which was supported by a number of delegations.

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

- on **farmers considered green by definition** (Article 29(4), a very large number of delegations favoured widening the scope of the proposal and on which a number of suggestions were noted. The importance of a common approach at EU level and the need to generate the same level of additional benefits for the environment across the Member States was underlined. The reaction of the Commission representative was noted.
- on the suggestion for a **menu approach to greening practices**, a majority of delegations considered this could better achieve a maximum greening benefit and take account of the specific objective differences between Member States. Possible additional greening practices, as well the need to ensure equal treatment between Member States, were noted.

Many delegations considered that the choice of practices should be made by Member States or regions. The openness expressed by the Commission representative to examine the suggestions made was noted.

- on the question **of greening at regional level**, a majority of delegations confirmed their preference to be able to fulfil at least one of the required greening practices, in particular the requirement to retain permanent grassland, at local/regional/national level.
- on **greening through Pillar II or through extended cross compliance**, it was noted that some delegations would prefer to green the CAP entirely through Pillar II agri-environment-climate operations with financing transferred from Pillar I without co-financing, and that several delegations favoured greening through extended cross compliance. The reserves of other delegations on either or both options were noted together with the Commission reaction.

- (b) **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy (the horizontal regulation)**
- (c) **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural development (EAFRD)**
- *Orientation debate*
9206/12 AGRI 258 AGRISTR 55 AGRIFIN 74 CODEC 1096
9283/12 AGRI 262 AGRIFIN 75 CODEC 1113

The SCA took note of the Commission representative's explanation and of the Commission Working Document, of delegations' comments and of the Commission representative's reply.

4. **CAP reform (Indicators - Article 110)**
Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy (the horizontal regulation)
- *Presentation by the Commission and exchange of views*
15426/11 AGRI 684 AGRISTR 58 AGRIORG 181 AGRIFIN 92
CODEC 1666 + REV 1

The SCA took note of the Commission presentation.

5. CAP Reform (Single CMO - producer organisations)

- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products (Single CMO Regulation)

- *Orientation debate*

15397/11 AGRI 680 AGRIFIN 88 AGRIORG 178 CODEC 1657 + REV 1

The SCA discussed the provisions concerning producer organisations (POs), associations of producer organisations (APOs) and inter-branch organisations (IBOs).

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

- on the proposed **mandatory recognition of POs/IBOs**, while some delegations supported the proposal, others preferred recognition to be voluntary for Member States. The suggestions of some delegations to consider the solutions agreed upon for the milk sector as a way forward were also noted.
- on the proposed **possibility for Member States to extend PO rules and financial contributions to non-members**, some delegations supported the proposal; the reserves of other delegations on the proposed possibility were noted.
- on the proposed **balance between general competition rules and an exemption for POs/IBOs**, there was broad support for the proposal, while some delegations continued to have concerns about the non-dominant position requirement for recognition of POs. A few other delegations questioned the scope of the exemption from competition law set out in Article 144.

The Presidency announced its intention to reflect on delegations' positions with a view to preparing suggested amendments for consideration by the Working Party on Horizontal Agricultural Questions.

6. Organisation of future work

The Presidency informed the SCA on the organisation of its next meeting on 7 May 2012 as well as on the preparation for the Council session on 14-15 May 2012.