



Council of the
European Union

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(OR. fr)

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AGRI 220
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FOOD 38
SAN 324
PHYTOSAN 23
VETER 52
ENV 515
CLIMA 246
CODEX 11
WTO 103
RELEX 712

NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations

Subject: Report on the application of EU health and environmental standards to imported agricultural and agri-food products

Delegations will find in the annex an information note drafted by the Presidency in preparation for the exchange of views on the Commission's report on the application of EU health and environmental standards to imported agricultural and agri-food products, to be held at the meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 13 June 2022.

On 21 February 2022, the Agriculture and Fisheries Council held an exchange of views on strengthening coherence between the Green Deal, the common agricultural policy (CAP) and trade policy to support the transition towards sustainable food systems¹. The exchange followed up on discussions that had taken place when an agreement was reached on reforming the CAP, accompanied by a joint statement by the Council and the European Parliament inviting the European Commission to present a report by June 2022 on applying EU health and environmental standards to imported agricultural and agri-food products². On 11 March 2022, the Presidency sent a letter³ to the Commission recapitulating the main outcomes of the Council's exchange of views and stressing the need to prevent unintended negative effects of the transition to sustainable food systems and the need to reflect on ways of ensuring that the increase in health and environmental requirements for European agriculture does not result in a reduction in its production capacity.

On 3 June 2022, the Commission published the abovementioned report on the application of EU health and environmental standards to imported agricultural and agri-food products⁴, in response to the Council's and European Parliament's joint request of July 2021.

To provide a structure for the discussion on the Commission's report, the Presidency proposes that ministers address the following questions:

¹ 5887/22.

² 10991/21 ADD1.

³ 7312/22.

⁴ 9651/22.

- 1) *In the context of the necessary transition to sustainable food systems, the report concludes that some EU production standards can be extended to include imported products while complying with WTO rules. In your view, which particular areas (health, environment, animal welfare) should be treated as priorities, and which specific levers (multilateral, bilateral, autonomous measures, etc.) would you consider most suitable?*
- 2) *Would you consider it useful to follow up on the measures that are in progress and planned and, if so, in what form?*
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