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WORKING PAPER

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CONTRIBUTION

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Party on Financial Agricultural Questions
N° Cion doc.:	9634/18 + ADD 1 + REV 1
Subject:	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 - Comments from the Belgian delegation on the drafting suggestion from the Commission

Delegations will find attached comments from the Belgian delegation on the drafting suggestion and explanations from the Commission services related to Articles 57 (Protection of the financial interests of the Union) in the proposed Horizontal Regulation.

Belgian comments on document WK 10645/2020 from 6 October 2020 regarding suggestions and explanations from the Commission services related to Articles 57 (Protection of the financial interests of the Union) in the proposed Horizontal Regulation.

The Belgian delegation would like to thank the EC services for the drafting suggestions and the explanations.

The Belgian authorities are open to consider the use of Arachne for a better monitoring of conflicts of interests. However, at this stage, it is premature to make it mandatory in the Horizontal regulation. There's not enough evidence about the usefulness of the tool for the agricultural funds and there's a concrete risk for increasing the administrative burden.

A further in-depth analysis of the tool by the Commission would be welcomed.

The Belgian authorities would also like to have more information on the progress made by MS who launched the project to use Arachne for the EAFRD.

Knowledge sharing is important and useful and could be done by commission and via Learning Network.