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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 Slovak delegation on the drafting suggestion from the Commission

Delegations will find attached comments from the Slovak 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.

Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013

SK comments on document WK 10645/2020 INIT regarding a 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

The Slovak Republic is in favour of full transparency in the use of public funds, and supports new tools and techniques designed to prevent misuse and fraud of public funds. However, an essential prerequisite for compulsory use of the ARACHNE system is complete digitizing of processes in the Paying Agency, which requires a lot of time and generates considerable additional costs. The process of complete digitization in the Paying Agency in Slovakia is progressing slowly, and it is difficult to estimate how long it would take to reach the required state of IT systems to be able to commence using of ARACHNE. Moreover, Slovakia faces severe state budget challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, Slovakia cannot support drafting suggestion from the Commission related to Articles 57 (Protection of the financial interests of the Union) in the proposed Horizontal Regulation. In the spirit of compromise, Slovakia can support the EC proposal that a general requirement for a single data-mining tool for CAP expenditure should be set out in the basic act, but its implementation should be on a voluntary basis.