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General Secretariat

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**Brussels, 14 October 2020**

**WK 10645/2020 ADD 7**

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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 Italian delegation on the drafting suggestion from the Commission

Delegations will find attached comments from the Italian 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.

**Italian comments on document WK 10645/2020 of 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 HZR.**

First of all our thanks to the EC services for the drafting suggestions and the explanations of doc. 10645/2020 of 6 October 2020.

Italy is strongly committed in the activities of preventing and combating irregularity and fraud to the detriment of the various European funds and positively evaluates the possibility of using IT tools capable of verifying, recording and archiving information on beneficiaries, direct or indirect, of EU funding and then use this data for the purpose of assessing the risks associated with the payment of aid to individual beneficiaries.

In this context, in Italy, the national AFCOS has launched the project of an anti-fraud IT platform and is progressively developing it: this platform has all the characteristics of a data mining tool, to be used in the prevention and contrast of irregularities and fraud to the detriment of various public contributions, coming from European funds or national funds.

Consequently, the Italian delegation positively considers the inclusion, in Article 57 of the HZR, of a reference to the use of a data-mining tool for the effective protection of the financial interests of the EU within the CAP.

However, we would appreciate some clarification following to the examination of document WK 10645/2020.

It is not clear to us whether, for CAP expenditure, Member States must necessarily use a single data-mining tool made available by the Commission (ARACHNE) or if they can also use similar tools that they already possess, provided that they have characteristics and functional requirements similar to the tool made available by the Commission.

Can we have clarifications in this regard?

Does the Commission consider specifying in the implementing regulation how to use the single data-mining tool and, in particular, what information would be made accessible for the protection of CAP expenditure?

Roma, 14/10/2020