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CONTRIBUTION

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
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Subject:	Regulation establishing the conditions for the implementation of Union support under the CAP - Comments from Slovakia on block IV

Generational renewal and new farmers and farm relief services

(Articles 14, 15, 16 and 17 of the Proposal for EU Regulation on CAP 2028-2034)

1. Article 14 *“Setting-up of young farmers, new farmers, rural business start-ups and development of small farms”*

General Comment:

We understand from the wording of Article 14 paragraph 1 that the interventions laid down in Article 14 are intended to be obligatory. However, we consider that MS should have the flexibility to decide whether to implement these interventions, taking into account their national strategies, the specific circumstances of each MS, and the limited resources available due to the reduced CAP budget.

Question:

SK kindly requests COM to clarify which types of interventions under Article 14 are intended to be mandatory and which are optional.

2. Article 16 *“Starter pack for young farmers”*

General comment:

It follows from Article 15 that MS are required to develop Generational Renewal strategy with the Starter Pack for Young Farmers forming an integral part of this strategy. Article 16 appears to imply that MS are required to include the full set of measures listed therein in the Starter Pack and implement them accordingly. *In our view, the selection of measures to be implemented within the framework of the Generational Renewal Strategy should remain at the discretion of MS, taking into account their specific national circumstances and available financial resources, particularly in light of reduced public funding. Accordingly, the Starter Pack should consist only of those measures listed in Article 16 that each MS decides to include in its Generational Renewal Strategy as relevant and appropriate for supporting their young farmers.*

Moreover, the measures referred to in points (f), (g) and (i) are not exclusively targeted at young farmers, even though they are listed under the Starter pack for YF, meaning that other farmers could also benefit from them. Conversely, young farmers are also eligible for additional support measures outside the scope of Article 16 that are not specifically designed for them. *In this regard, we consider that the Starter Pack for YF should comprise only those measures that are specifically dedicated to, or financially earmarked for, young farmers. Otherwise, the starter pack risks losing its targeted purpose and becoming largely declaratory in nature.*

Question 1:

SK kindly requests COM to clarify which measures listed under Article 16 are mandatory for MS to implement and include in the Starter Pack for YF, and which measures may be implemented at the discretion of MS.

Question 2:

SK kindly requests COM to clarify the meaning of the measure referred to in Article 16 point (f) *“support for rural business start-ups”* in the context of support for young farmers, given that it is listed as a measure to be included in the Starter Pack for Young Farmers.