



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

**Interinstitutional files:
2018/0218(COD)**

Brussels, 13 January 2021

WK 433/2021 INIT

LIMITE

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WORKING PAPER

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CONTRIBUTION

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
N° prev. doc.:	14224/20
N° Cion doc.:	9556/18 + REV 1 (en, de, fr) + COR 1
Subject:	Regulation on common market organisation (CMO) of agricultural products - French Comments

Following the meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture on 11 January 2021, delegations will find in Annex the comments from the French delegation.

As a follow-up of the SCA of 11 January 2021, you will find below French positions on the amendments targeted by the Presidency in the document ST14224/20 with regard to the CMO market management measures when it differs from Presidency's position. For the other points, we strongly support Presidency's approach.

We thank the Presidency for taking them into account.

Block 1. Market management: intervention, exceptional/crisis measures, market transparency, imports (R 1308/2013)

1.2. Public intervention (PI) and private storage aid (PSA)

	Prop. Art. N°	R. 1308/13 Art. N°	EP Am n°	Art. Title	PCY Observations	PCY Posit.	France
13	1.1.3c new	12	53	Public intervention periods	EP wants PI available all year around. Against market orientation.	Not acceptable	France strongly supports this amendment, which allows more flexibility and reactivity in the case of necessity.

1.3. Sugar provisions

	Prop. Art. N°	R. 1308/13 Art. N°	EP Am n°	Art. Title	PCY Observations	PCY Posit.	France
22	1.1.21 ba new	125 title	106	Sugar sector agreements	Beet and sugar cane added. Unacceptable and unnecessary. This would open further discussion on the scope to the sugar sector.	Not acceptable	France supports those amendments, which aim to improve the market monitoring in the sugar sector, as ethanol has become a complementary outlet to sugar.
24	1.1.21 bb new	126 title	107	Price reporting in the sugar market	Markets (not only sugar). This would open further discussion on the scope to the sugar sector.	Not acceptable	
25	1.1.21 bc new	126.1	108	Price reporting in the sugar market	Price reporting beet/cane sugar/ethanol added. This would open further discussion on the scope to the sugar sector.	Not acceptable	

1.4. Trade with third countries

	Prop. Art. N°	R. 1308/13 Art. N°	EP Am n°	Art. Title	PCY Observations	PCY Posit.	France
35	1.1.22 af new	188a new	138	Import of agriculture and agri-food products from third countries	[EP] <i>Imports to meet EU environmental/health standards (IAs)</i>	Not acceptable	France strongly supports this amendment, which is totally in line with the chapter V of the Council Conclusions on the Farm to Fork Strategy.

1.5. Market transparency and early warning (new)

	Prop. Art. N°	R. 1308/13 Art. N°	EP Am n°	Art. Title	PCY Observations	PCY Posit.	France
39	1.1.26 h new	218a new	146	Transparency of the agricultural products market (Observatory agricultural product markets)	Maybe, can be discussed with an indication that as long as it does not affect observatories that are already functioning well. Eventually, opening more market sector observatories.	To be considered	France strongly supports this amendment, which aims to extend the current market monitoring and promote transparency along the food chain. Market observatories are essential for crisis prevention and decision making in case of market disturbance.
40	1.1.26 i new	218b new	147	Early warning mechanism for market disturbances and alert threshold	Maybe, can be discussed with an indication that as long as it does not affect the market orientation. + Overarching reservation. Council could accept <u>to discuss the issue</u> on the understanding that we didn't put the market orientation of the CAP into question. Indeed, that goes for all the amendments categorised as "To be considered".	To be considered	France strongly supports this amendment, which aims to facilitate the recognition of market disturbance and to help decision-making.

1.6. Exceptional market measures

	Prop. Art. N°	R. 1308/13 Art. N°	EP Am n°	Art. Title	PCY Observations	PCY Posit.	France
41	1.1.26 j new	219	148	Measures against market disturbance	EP suggest deleting the test that before being able to take measures, it should be proved that the safety net is not sufficient.	To be considered	France strongly supports this amendment because it is also necessary to maintain the possibility to activate exceptional measures based on the crisis management measures in F&V operational programs and other sectoral programs that are currently provided for in the CMO but will be integrated in the CAP Strategic Plans. Regulation 2020/592 voted in the context of the Covid-19 crises is a good example.
42	1.1.26 k new	219a new	149	Volume reduction scheme	Support to a volume reduction scheme is already a possibility but doesn't need to be specified as a specific measure and for a particular sector.	Not acceptable	France strongly supports this amendment, based on the experience gained during the milk crisis in 2016.
44	1.1.26 m new	220	247	Measures concerning animal diseases and loss of consumer confidence due to public, animal or plant health risks	Plant diseases and pests added. EP proposes to extend exceptional measures to plant products.	To be considered	France strongly supports this amendment, which extends the scope of this article