



Council of the European Union  
General Secretariat

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### WORKING PAPER

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#### **NOTE**

From:	Presidency
To:	Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA)
N° Cion doc.:	9556/18 + REV 1 (en, de, fr) + COR 1
Subject:	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products, (EU) No 1151/2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs, (EU) No 251/2014 on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of aromatised wine products, (EU) No 228/2013 laying down specific measures for agriculture in the outermost regions of the Union and (EU) No 229/2013 laying down specific measures for agriculture in favour of the smaller Aegean islands - Presidency note

With a view to the meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture on 19 April 2021, delegations will find in the Annex a Presidency note on joint statements on trade .

**Draft outline of a possible [joint] statement by the Council [,the European Parliament and the Commission] concerning the application of EU health and environmental standards to imported agricultural products<sup>1</sup>**

The Council of the European Union, the European Parliament and the European Commission recognise the need to seek greater equivalence between the health and environmental standards that apply to agricultural products in the European Union and those that apply to imported agricultural products. In order to tackle sustainable development issues, especially climate change and biodiversity loss, and match citizens' expectations for higher quality and more sustainable food, the European Union has continually raised these standards for many years. The European Green Deal and its sectoral strategies, including the Commission communication on the Farm to Fork Strategy, strive to achieve this goal. The Council of the European Union, the European Parliament and the European Commission agree to promote the application of these or equivalent standards to agricultural and agrifood imports in full respect of WTO rules.

**Draft outline of a possible [joint] statement by the Council [and the European Parliament] concerning the application of EU health and environmental standards to imported agricultural products**

The Council and the European Parliament invite the Commission to present, before [the end of 2021], a report containing an assessment of the application of EU health and environmental standards (including animal welfare standards as well as processes and production methods) to imported agricultural and agrifood products, and to propose, where appropriate, measures to ensure better equivalence in their application, including through trade agreements, in full respect of WTO rules. These measures should cover all relevant public policy areas including - but not limited to - the Common Agricultural Policy, the Health and Food safety Policy, the environmental policy and the Common Commercial Policy.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that the European Parliament and the Commission have not yet been consulted on these statements.