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WORKING DOCUMENT

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Antici Group (Simplification)
Subject:	Omnibus III - Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) (Block II-III-IV) - Compilation of written comments

Delegations will find enclosed further questions and comments as received, by 27 June, from MT on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) simplification package (block IV).

Malta's Written Comments on the Proposed Simplification package on Agriculture (Omnibus III) – Blocks 4

PUBLIC

Proposed single on-the-spot control mechanism

Malta agrees in principle with the concept of a single on-the-spot visit, recognising its potential to reduce administrative burdens on farmers. However, further clarity is required regarding its implementation, particularly considering that existing systems already safeguard the financial interests of the Union.

In this regard, Malta suggests the rewording of Article 2 (14) of the proposed Regulation, amending Article 60 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/2116, as follows:

*Where a beneficiary has been selected for an on-the-spot check on an aid application, **~~or on~~** a payment claim, or on conditionality pursuant to Article 83, Member States shall, **~~to the extent possible~~** in principle, **~~and~~** taking account of the associated risks **and additional administrative burden.** **~~not~~** **avoid** select**ing** that beneficiary for a subsequent check and control sample for that year, except when the circumstances require a second control in order to ensure the effective protection of the financial interests of the Union. This provision shall not reduce the level of checks.*

Malta would also like to seek guidance from the European Commission on the specific conditions under which a second control would be justified following an initial visit. Moreover, it should be left up to Member States to decide whether to implement this change or otherwise.