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WORKING PAPER

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INFORMATION

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	3556th meeting of the COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (Agriculture and Fisheries) - Mertens Forecast

Delegations will find in the annex the Mertens Forecast for the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council on 17 and 18 July.

Mertens Forecast

AGRIFISH Council, 17-18 July 2017

The AGRIFISH Council will take place on 17 and 18 July 2017 in Brussels, starting on **both days at 10.00**. It will address both agricultural and fisheries matters, and will be chaired by Mr **Tarmo Tamm**, Minister of Rural Affairs, and Mr **Siim Kiisler**, Minister of the Environment of the Republic of Estonia.

Ministers are kindly requested to keep interventions to a maximum of three minutes on 'B' items and to a maximum of one minute on Any Other Business (AOB) items; except for a group of four points (CAP) where intervention can last up to maximum of 4 minutes.

Starting with the approval of A items, the meeting will continue with Minister Tamm and Minister Kiisler presenting the **Presidency Work Programme**.

Commissioner **Vella** will present to the Council the communication on the state of play of the **Common Fisheries Policy and consultation on fishing opportunities for 2018**, setting out the criteria to establish Total Allowable Catches (TACs) for next year. The presentation will be followed by an exchange of views. The fisheries item will be chaired by Minister **Kiisler**.

Next, chaired by Minister **Tamm**, Commissioner **Andriukaitis** will inform the Council under an AOB point about the recently adopted **European One Health Action Plan against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**, which is expected to contribute to shaping the EU policy in this area for the coming years. Subsequently, he will update the Council under an AOB point on the situation of the **African Swine Fever** after new cases have been detected in wild boar in the Czech Republic far from the previously infected areas in the EU. Following that, the Maltese delegation, under an AOB point raised by the previous presidency trio, will inform the Council about the outcome of the Symposium on the **"Future of Food in the EU"**. The Belgian delegation will inform the Council on consequences for the internal market of national measures requiring the indication of the **country of origin on food labels** under an AOB point.

Then Commissioner **Jourová** will take the AOB points on the **dual quality of foodstuffs**. The Slovakian delegation will inform the Council on the meeting, which took place in Bratislava on 30 May 2017 and the Czech delegation will give an overview about the results of the latest comparative study of products marketed in different Member States.

The morning session is scheduled to end at **13.30**. No official lunch for ministers is foreseen.



Immediately after lunch at 15.00, the Council will resume with Commissioner **Hogan** and with the **organic farming** proposal, where ministers will be invited to confirm the outcome of the last trilogue. Following this, given the strong links between the two points, we will have a joint debate on the progress made in the **simplification of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)** since the Council adopted its conclusions in May 2015 and on the preparations for the post-2020 CAP. We will take the related Polish AOB point on the "**V4+3**" meeting and the Spanish AOB point on the **future financing of the CAP** at the same time. This will be followed by an AOB point raised by the Austrian and Hungarian delegations to inform ministers on the International Ministerial Conference "**GMO free agriculture: a chance for rural development in Central and South Eastern Europe**".

A press conference will be held on Monday 17 July at around **19.30** with Commissioner Hogan and Minister Tamm.

The second day will start with Commissioner **Hogan** reporting on the latest developments in **trade-related agricultural issues**. This point will be discussed jointly with an AOB point from the Czech delegation on trade practises applied by third countries vis-à-vis responsible EU Member States. This will be followed by an exchange of views on the Commission delegated regulation **on wine grape varieties and their synonyms on wine labels**, an issue related to the Slovenian 'Teran wine'. Then, Commissioner Hogan will inform the Council under an AOB point raised by the Commission, on the outcome of the **AU-EU Agriculture Ministerial Conference 'Making Sustainable Agriculture a Future for Youth in Africa'**, which was held on 2 July 2017 in Rome and co-hosted by the European Commission together with the African Union Commission and the Estonian Presidency. Following that, we will take the AOB points raised by Portugal, Spain and Belgium about the consequences of drought conditions in their countries. Finally, an AOB point requested by the Polish delegation on **farmland trade in the EU** will feature on the agenda.

The meeting is expected to end before lunch at around **13.10**.

