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WORKING PAPER

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CONTRIBUTION

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

Delegations will find attached the comments from the Latvian delegation regarding provisions discussed in the WP on Agricultural Products' meeting on 4 July 2018.

Comments of Latvia

on the

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

(hereafter – the CMO draft proposal)

July 16, 2018

Hereby in the table below Latvia submits its written comments on the CMO draft proposal regarding specific proposals that we cannot support:

Article (point) of the draft proposal	Article (point) of the amended Regulation	Subject/area	LV comment/opinion
Art. 1(1) “b”	Art. 3, paragraph 4 of CMO regulation No. 1308/2013	Procedure for amending the definitions	**Latvia cannot support the proposal to set the definitions by means of delegated acts.** We are of the opinion that definitions are an essential element of the legislation, which should only be adopted by means of implementing acts.
Art.1 (4) “c”	Art. 23 a, paragraph 1 of CMO regulation No. 1308/2013	School scheme/budget	Latvia **supports the Commission’s approach of not including** the implementation framework for the **EU school scheme in the national CAP strategic plans**. **BUT - Latvia cannot support the reduction the School scheme budget** (*from 250 000 000 million euro to 220 804 135 euro per school year*): • The communication of the Commission on the future of the CAP pointed to the high ambitions and goals for the school scheme in promoting healthy diets, reducing

			obesity and malnutrition, while also facilitating access to healthy and fresh products. • These ambitious goals will be hard to achieve if the financing is reduced. • Latvia also points out that the effectiveness of the scheme has so far been heavily dependent on the national top-ups, as the EU aid covers a smaller share of all needs of the scheme (*for ex, in Latvia the EU share covers only 1/6 of total needs to be met by the scheme*). • In this regard, we stress that the possibilities of Member states to complement the scheme's budget are limited.
			• Latvia takes note of the proposed reduction corresponding to the amount of indicative allocation to the United Kingdom. • However, Latvia draws the attention to the fact that the UK was not fully using its allocation, thus allowing the unused part to be redistributed to other Member states, which needed more than their indicative allocations. • Thus, Latvia sees it that the proposed reduction in the School scheme budget will have direct negative impact on scheme's budgets in those member states, including Latvia. • To this regard, Latvia believes that the budget for the school scheme must be regarded as the budget for an EU- level measure, being divided among Member states, based on objective criteria. And therefore, the budget for the school scheme should not be reduced. Or, - **at least, Latvia suggests that only the amount genuinely used by the UK should be deducted from the current EU school scheme's budget**. According to our

			calculations, in average over 2017/2018 – 2018/2019 school years the UK will have used approximately 4.7 million euro per year. **Thus the reduction of the schemes budget would amount only to 4.7 million euro instead of 29.2 million euro.**