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From: Presidency
To: Special Committee on Agriculture

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Subject: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the Common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council
- *Sectoral interventions - Art. 60a*

Delegations will find in the [Annex](#) a Presidency discussion paper on types of interventions in other sectors (Article 60a of the abovementioned proposal) for an exchange of views at the Special Committee on Agriculture on 10 February 2020.

Discussion paper related to Article 60a of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation

The discussions held on interventions in 'other sectors' showed that one of the controversial issues is the scope of flexibility with regard to forms of cooperation and the eligibility of beneficiaries for other sectors referred to in point (f) of Article 39.

The Commission proposed that only producer organisations (POs) recognised under Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 should be eligible for support under 'other sectors'. Many Member States with no or a small number of POs called for widening the scope of eligible forms of cooperation to encompass also cooperatives, producer groups and similar forms that have not yet been granted recognition as a PO.

At the meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA) on 25 November 2019, the Finnish Presidency launched a discussion on the principles for an alternative approach which would set a four-year transitional period (14288/19). Within this period, cooperatives and other forms of cooperation that have been established by producers based on national law would be eligible for support under Article 60a, provided that they seek recognition as a PO within that period. This alternative approach was supported by several Member States, indicating that further examination is needed, among which:

- **the practical aspects of the transitional period for cooperatives and other forms of cooperation**, including measures to ensure that at the end of the transitional period cooperatives and other forms of cooperation receiving support under Article 60a are fully recognised as POs, as well as consequences in case they are not;

- **the possible inclusion of interbranch organisations (IBOs) as eligible beneficiaries under Article 60a** (and/or potentially under Article 71 that includes an exception to support "individual actors"), taking into consideration that IBOs may contribute to promote and increase cooperation on sustainability issues that concern the primary production, as well as the other actors in the food production chain, but considering also the limited control that producers have in the IBOs.

Based on Member States' written comments, the Presidency would like to invite delegations to share their views on the following questions:

1. Would you support that a recognition plan is requested as a compulsory document from cooperatives and other forms of cooperation which are not recognised as POs, as an instrument helping to ensure that by end of transitional period the full recognition is achieved (in addition to the Operational Programme needed to implement types of interventions supported under Art 60a)? Would you support a mandatory recovery of funds in case the producer group does not obtain a recognition within the transitional period?
2. What is your view regarding the possibility to enlarge the scope of support to IBOs under the Article 60a and/or under the Article 71?

After a discussion on the above mentioned elements, the Presidency will consider preparing drafting suggestions for Article 60a. Depending on the outcome of the discussion on Article 60a, some changes in Article 63 might be necessary.