



Council of the
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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 19 October 2020
To: Delegations

No. prev. doc.: 11822/20

Subject: Council Conclusions on the Farm to Fork Strategy
- *Council Conclusions* (19 October 2020)

Delegations will find attached the statements by the Czech and Hungarian delegations, to be entered into the Council's minutes.

Ministry of Agriculture
Czech Republic

19th October 2020

Statement by the Czech Republic on the Council Conclusions on the Farm to Fork Strategy

Regarding the Council Conclusions on the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Czech Republic issues a statement reflecting its position.

The Czech Republic takes note of the Commission's published Communication - A Farm to Fork strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally - friendly food system. The Czech Republic welcomes the general orientation of the Strategy and it wishes for pursuing the goals of protecting the environment, soil, water and air while ensuring sustainable production of food in the EU. However, the Czech Republic considers the specific targets set by the European Commission to be very ambitious and is afraid that their achievement will have a serious negative impact on the competitiveness and production of the entire European agri-food sector.

Given the far-reaching potential effects of the Strategy, although it is not a legislative proposal, the Czech Republic calls on the European Commission to provide a detailed analysis of possible impacts on the agri-food sector within the EU and on individual Member States. It is necessary to know the environmental, social and economic impacts of the targets well before any substantial decisions are made.

Considering the preparation of specific recommendations for each Member State by the Commission, the Czech Republic calls on the European Commission to take into account the Member States' national specificities. In particular their previous efforts to protect the environment, sustainable use of natural resources and other areas; progress already made and potential for achieving the proposed targets.

Statement by Hungary on the Council Conclusions on the Farm to Fork Strategy

The Hungarian delegation agrees that the agricultural sector has to contribute to the objectives of the Green Deal, but emphasizes that the synergy with the ongoing CAP reform should have been delivered through the standard regulatory procedure.

The fulfilment of some thresholds incorporated in the Farm to Fork Strategy, which fails to define the baselines, seems impossible to achieve or may place a disproportionate burden on Member States. We consider especially the 50 percent decrease in the overall use of chemical pesticides beyond the reduction already accomplished and the 25 percent organic farming target as overly ambitious. In case of pesticides and fertilisers the reduction targets should take into account the already achieved results and the current factual usage of these substances by Member States.

Hungary regrets that the Farm to Fork Strategy was published without any assessment of the possible impacts resulting from the implementation of the targets. It remains therefore uncertain how it would influence the competitiveness of European farmers. Hungary considers that the necessity to find a balance between the Treaty-based objectives of the CAP and the environmental and climate-related objectives has not yet been clearly addressed so far.

It is of utmost importance that the contribution of the Common Agricultural Policy to the objectives of the Farm to Fork Strategy be based on a solid legal background and proportionate to the funds available. Farmers should only comply with requirements that are incorporated in the basic acts or other relevant EU legislation. In this context the Commission should assess national Strategic Plans only with reference to criteria that have appropriate legal bases. Should a Member State opt for different policy choices than the Commission recommendations, this should not entail any legal consequences with respect to the adoption of the national CAP Strategic Plans.