



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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ADDENDUM TO "I/A" ITEM NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: SCA/COUNCIL

Subject : Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005 and Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 as regards distribution of food products to the most deprived persons in the Union
(first reading)
(a) of the Council's position
(b) of the statement of the Council's reasons
- Statements
COMMON GUIDELINES
Consultation deadline: 21.01.2012

Statement by the Commission

With regard to Commission's proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005 and Council Regulation (EC) 1234/2007 as regards distribution of food products to the most deprived persons in the Union the Commission takes note of the repeated discussions in the Council, where a blocking minority of six member states opposed the proposal.

The Commission also takes note of the joint declaration from France and Germany, where both countries declared,

- that they agree to continue the program for a transition period ending definitely on 31 December 2013 in order to allow charity organizations in Member States using the current program to take into account the new situation.
- that they consider that the conditions are not met for a proposal of a new program for a period post 2013 to be presented by the Commission and adopted by the Council.
- that they cannot agree with legal and financial proposals by the Commission of such a program in the future.

The Commission takes note of the opinion of a significant group of Member States not to pursue the program beyond 2013 and to amend the EU Regulation on the Single CMO and the future Multi-Annual Financial Framework 2014 – 2020 accordingly.

Without prejudice to its right of initiative under the Treaty, the Commission will take account of this strong opposition to any legal and financial proposal of such a program in the future.

Joint Statement by France and Germany

The EU regulation regarding the distribution of food products to the most deprived persons relies on the distribution of products from Union intervention stocks supplemented, on a temporary basis, by purchases on the market. Successive reforms of the CAP and market evolutions have resulted in a progressive reduction in intervention stocks, as well as the range of products available.

Recognizing the importance of the work of charity organizations in Member States using the current program, France and Germany agree to continue the program for a transition period ending definitely on 31 December 2013 in order to allow these organizations to take into account this new situation. In this context, France and Germany welcome the ongoing exchange of views between their charity organizations.

However, given the discussion in the Council, France and Germany consider that the conditions are not met for a proposal of a new program for a period post 2013 to be presented by the Commission and adopted by the Council. This is why both countries can't agree with legal and financial proposals by the Commission of such a program in the future.

Statement by Sweden

Sweden is of the opinion that the new proposal and the declaration by the Commission do not present enough guarantees that the program for distribution of food products to the most deprived persons in the Union, will end definitely on the 31st of December 2013, and that the future Multi-Annual Financial Framework 2014 – 2020 will be amended accordingly.

Therefore Sweden cannot support this proposal and intends to vote against it.

Statement from the Belgian, Bulgarian, Greek, Spanish, Hungarian, Italian, Lithuanian, Luxembourg, Latvian, Maltese, Portuguese, Rumanian and Slovenian delegations

Over the last 25 years, the food program for the most deprived persons of the European Union has allowed to make visible the European solidarity among more than 18 million persons in situation of poverty in 20 Member States.

The Member States that support this statement consider that the European Union should keep the solidarity with the neediest and with that aim declare that:

They welcome the continuity of the program in 2012 and 2013 under the Common Agricultural Policy.

It is necessary to ensure the future continuity of the distribution program in the context of the financial perspectives for the period 2014-2020, as an element for fighting poverty and social exclusion within the framework of the EU 2020 Strategy.

Statement by Czech Republic

The Czech Republic appreciates the ability to find an agreement in this issue based on efforts of some Member States and the European Commission that enables the gradual phase out of this programme. In this respect the Czech Republic will closely follow that this agreement is after 2013 fulfilled.

Based on the arguments repeatedly expressed in the Council the Czech Republic will abstain from the vote on this proposal.
