



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 20 April 2012

8836/12

CRS CSA 8

SUMMARY RECORD

**Subject : 1425th meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA)
held in Brussels on 16 April 2012**

SUMMARY

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1. **Adoption of the provisional agenda**

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The agenda was approved.

I

2. **Summary record of the 1424th meeting of the SCA**

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The Special Committee on Agriculture approved the summary record.

II

3. **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing rules for direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the common agricultural policy (CAP reform)**

- *Orientation debate*

15396/11 AGRI 679 AGRIFIN 87 CODEC 1656 + REV 1 + REV 2

8137/12 AGRI 184 AGRIFIN 52 CODEC 802

8532/12 AGRI 210 AGRIFIN 65 CODEC 924

8533/12 AGRI 211 AGRIFIN 66 CODEC 925

The SCA discussed the issues of internal redistribution, areas with natural constraints and active farmers, with a view to preparing the orientation debate in the Council on 26-27 April 2012.

The SCA took note of the Presidency's summary, the main points of which were as follows:

- on **internal redistribution**, the concerns of a considerable number of delegations on the effects of the proposal were noted together with suggestions for a more flexible or gradual approach, as well as the call by delegations from Member States applying the SAPS to continue with this system after 2013. The Presidency's approach presented in the Working Party was broadly supported as a step in the right direction. Comments and suggestions on other points were also noted, together with the Commission's reaction.

- on **areas with natural constraints**, most delegations could support the proposed scheme, including the level of funding, provided it remained voluntary. Several delegations, however, had concerns about the articulation between this scheme and the second pillar scheme, as well as about possible unnecessary administrative burden, of which some suggested that Member States who did not intend to use the scheme should be allowed to transfer the available funds to their second-pillar envelopes. The Presidency recalled that the issue of flexibility between pillars was currently under discussion in the Friends of the Presidency Group.
- On **active farmer**, the Presidency's suggestions for a simplified approach presented in the Working Party were broadly supported, with a number of delegations requesting more flexibility. The willingness expressed by the Commission representative to look at solutions for a simplified approach was noted.

The Presidency announced that the SCA would continue its discussions on the proposal at its meeting on 16 April 2012, with focus on the three proposed greening measures, as well as on GAEC, cross compliance and sanctions.

4. **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Agricultural Product Quality Schemes**

- *Preparation for the next informal trilogue*
8329/12 AGRI 196 AGRIORG 57 AGRILEG 49 CODEC 874

The SCA discussed the Presidency compromise text set out in 8329/12 with the aim of granting a renewed mandate for the next informal trialogue.

The debate concentrated mainly on the revised European Parliament's amendment 87 on management of supply (Annex II of 8329/12), with the addition of the following elements proposed by the Presidency:

- introduction of an end date in 2020 for the possibility of control of supply,
- replacement of the term "shall" with "may" in paragraph 2.

The Presidency took note of persisting concerns voiced by some delegations. Other delegations welcomed the proposed compromise and showed margins of flexibility whilst some indicated that they needed more time to fully scrutinise the proposal. A few delegations expressed the view that the agreement on this file should be linked to the agreement on the proposal on marketing standards.

The Presidency concluded on this point noting some positive movements in Member States' stances regarding management of supply and inviting those Member States who still had difficulties to re-consider the revised proposal further in the framework of an overall compromise. The Presidency took note of other concerns expressed by delegations and indicated that this file would be on the table of an upcoming SCA meeting with a view to obtaining a renewed mandate for the next trialogue.

5. **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 as regards marketing standards**

- *Preparation for the second informal trilogue*
6544/1/12 REV 1 AGRI 91 AGRIORG 33 CODEC 385

The SCA considered the revised compromise text prepared by the Presidency set out in the document 6544/1/12 REV 1.

The SCA took note of

- the support of the German delegation and of the statement to be included in the minutes (see Annex);
- the Presidency's invitation to other delegations who still had reserves to reflect on their positions with a view to supporting the compromise text;
- the Commission position;
- the Presidency's intention to come back to this file at a future meeting in order to allow the SCA to give its agreement.

Any other business

6. LFA - access to information for Member States

- *Information from the Presidency*

The Presidency invited delegations to authorise the Commission to provide the European Parliament with the delimitation of their respective Less Favoured Areas submitted by the Member States to the Commission.

7. Organisation of future work

The Presidency informed the SCA on the organisation of its next meeting on 23 April 2012 as well as on the preparation for the Council session on 26/27 April.

STATEMENT OF THE GERMAN DELEGATION
ON THE MARKETING STANDARD DRAFT REGULATION

1. The Federal Government is not only opposed to the introduction of new marketing standards, but wishes to see a further reduction in marketing standards and of the associated burden on the Member State in terms of inspection. The Federal Government therefore expects the new marketing standards for hops not to give rise to any additional bureaucratic burden for producers or for the administration.
2. The Federal Government expects the provisions on aid for producer organisations in the hop sector in the single CMO to be retained.
