



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 27 April 2012

9121/12

CRS CSA 9

SUMMARY RECORD

**Subject : 1426th meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA)
held in Brussels on 23 April 2012**

SUMMARY

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1. **Adoption of the provisional agenda**

8839/12 OJ CSA 9

The agenda was approved.

I

2. **Summary record of the 1425th meeting of the SCA**

8836/12 CRS CSA 8

The Special Committee on Agriculture approved the summary record.

II

3. **CAP reform (Greening):**

- *Orientation debate*

8180/12 AGRI 187 AGRIFIN 54 CODEC 821

(a) **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**

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

8791/12 AGRI 231 AGRIFIN 69 CODEC 989

8792/12 AGRI 232 AGRIFIN 70 CODEC 990

The SCA discussed the mandatory greening components of the proposal (crop diversification, permanent grassland and Ecological Focus Area), as well as GAEC, cross compliance and sanctions with a view to preparing the orientation debate in the Council on 14-15 May 2012.

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

- on **crop diversification**, a majority of delegations requested greater flexibility including for a higher area threshold and for a reduced number of crops. Several delegations indicated that the proportion of grassland on the farm should be taken into account. On the definition of "crop", there was broad support for the view that as an essential element, "crop" needed to be defined in the basic act; a preference for an adjusted wider scope was also noted. Delegations took note of the Commission services working document (doc 8792/12). Comments and suggestions on other points were also noted, together with the Commission's reaction.

- on **permanent grassland**, the Presidency noted support for its suggested adjustment to the proposed definition of permanent grassland as well as the suggestions made by a number of delegations for further adjustment, the reserves made by others, as well as the willingness expressed by the Commission representative to look carefully at this issue. The Presidency also noted that a majority of delegations called for the requirement to maintain permanent grassland to continue to apply at regional or national level.
- on **Ecological Focus Area**, a majority of delegations considered that the proposed percentage was too high and that the scope was too narrow. On further types of areas to be included in the basic act, the suggestions made by delegations were noted. On the appropriate level for this measure, a considerable number of delegations preferred it to be at regional and/or national level. The Presidency further noted the calls from several delegations for a minimum farm area threshold. Delegations took note of the Commission services working document (doc 8791/12). The Commission reaction was noted.

The Presidency announced that the SCA would continue its discussions on the proposal at its next meeting on 30 April 2012, with focus on the effect of greening and the baseline for support in Pillar II and on possible alternatives to the mandatory greening measures proposed by the Commission.

(b) **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy (the horizontal regulation)**

15426/11 AGRI 684 AGRISTR 58 AGRIORG 181 AGRIFIN 92 CODEC 1666
+ REV 1
8289/12 AGRI 194 AGRISTR 44 AGRIORG 56 AGRIFIN 58 CODEC 861

The SCA took note of delegations' comments and of the Commission representative's reply.

4. **Organisation of future work**

The Presidency informed the SCA on the organisation of its next meeting on 30 April 2012 as well as on the preparation for the Council session in Luxembourg on 26-27 April 2012.