



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 28 March 2012

**5637/12
ADD 1**

**PV/CONS 1
AGRI 36
PECHE 25**

ADDENDUM to DRAFT MINUTES

Subject: **3140th** meeting of the COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES), held in Brussels on 23 January 2012

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¹ Deliberations on Union legislative acts (Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union), other deliberations open to the public and public debates (Article 8 of the Council's Rules of Procedure).

LEGISLATIVE DELIBERATIONS

(Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

"A" ITEMS

1. **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council 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**
 - a) Adoption of the position of the Council in first reading
 - b) Adoption of the statement of the Council reasons
 - 18733/11 AGRI 891 AGRIORG 254 CODEC 2467 OC 100
+ ADD 1
 - 5222/12 CODEC 75 AGRI 20 AGRIORG 12 OC 4
+ COR 1
+ ADD 1

The Council approved its position at first reading, with the Swedish, Danish and United Kingdom delegations voting against and the Czech delegation abstaining, in accordance with Article 294(5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. (Legal basis: Article 43(2) of the TFEU).

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 Unión 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."

2. Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 establishing an Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)

PE-CONS 64/11 ELARG 123 PESC 1442 RELEX 1175 FIN 867
CADREFIN 124 COWEB 257 CODEC 1989

The Council approved the position at first reading of the European Parliament and adopted the proposed act, pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. (Legal basis: Article 212(2) of the TFEU).

3. Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council providing further macro-financial assistance to Georgia

- Political agreement
18792/11 ECOFIN 904 RELEX 1371 COEST 511 NIS 161 CODEC 2481

The Council reached a political agreement on the above proposal.

AGENDA ITEMS

5. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products (Single CMO Regulation)(CAP Reform package)

- Exchange of views
5240/12 AGRI 21 AGRIFIN 8 AGRIORG 13 CODEC 80

The Council held an orientation debate on the Commission's proposal on the Single CMO, based on the Presidency questionnaire set out in doc. 5240/12.

The Council noted the Presidency's intention to continue work on CAP reform at the next session of Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") in March.

NON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES - PUBLIC DEBATES
(in accordance with Article 8(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)

3. Work Programme of the Presidency

- Presentation by the Presidency
5196/12 AGRI 17 PECHE 15

The Chair presented the Work Programme of the Danish Presidency concerning the Agriculture and Fisheries sector.

The overall themes: “A responsible Europe, a dynamic Europe, a green Europe and a safe Europe” will influence the Presidency with the three priorities that call for most attention in the Agriculture and Fisheries Council:

- The reform of The Common Agricultural Policy
- The reform of The Common Fisheries Policy
- Improved Food Safety and Animal Welfare

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