



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 8 October 2012

14455/12

CRS CSA 22

SUMMARY RECORD

**Subject : 1439th meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA)
held in Brussels on 1st October 2012**

SUMMARY

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1. **Adoption of the provisional agenda**

14246/12 OJ CSA 22

The agenda was approved.

I

2. **Summary record of the 1437th meeting of the SCA**

13828/12 CRS CSA 21

The SCA approved the summary record.

3. **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 as regards the regime of the single payment scheme and support to vine-growers (first reading) (LA)**

- Adoption of the legislative act

PE-CONS 46/12 AGRI 496 AGRIORG 119 AGRIFIN 129 CODEC 1864 OC 400

13920/12 CODEC 2170 AGRI 596 AGRIORG 151 AGRIFIN 163 OC 510

The SCA approved the I-item as set out on the agenda, details are contained in the documents quoted.

II

4. **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural development (EAFRD)**

- **Investments (1)**

- **Ex-ante conditionalities (2)**

- *Orientation debate*

14211/12 AGRI 620 AGRISTR 125 CODEC 2227

14213/1/12 REV 1 AGRI 621 AGRISTR 126 CODEC 2228

(1) The SCA took note of delegations' views and of the Commission's reply.

(2) The SCA took note of the large support for the current drafting of Article 10 and Annex IV in the consolidated text of the Rural Development proposal. The SCA also took note of the Commission's views.

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

- **Penalties**

- *Orientation debate*

14217/12 AGRI 622 AGRIORG 157 AGRISTR 127 AGRIFIN 173 CODEC 2229

The SCA took note of delegations' answers to the questions set out in the Presidency questionnaire (doc. 14217/12) and of the Commission's reply .

Responding to the first question, delegations unanimously rejected the option of delegating to the Commission the power to lay down, by means of delegated acts, the rules and conditions relating to administrative penalties. They unanimously confirmed that the principles on penalties needed to be laid down in the basic act and the detailed rules by the Commission by means of implementing acts.

Responding to the second question, delegations almost unanimously took the view that the scope of Articles 66 and 66aa should be limited to some provisions of the single CMO Regulation and the non-IACS part of the Rural Development Regulation.

Responding to the third question, the SCA almost unanimously took the view that the penalties to be applied in case of non-compliance with the other support schemes (for example, the promotion or POSEI or Aegean Islands schemes) should be laid down in sectoral regulations of the European Parliament and of the Council or of the Council, i.e. not by means of delegated acts.

The Presidency undertook to convene technical meetings with single CMO and rural development experts from delegations with a view to redrafting Articles 66 and 66aa.

6. **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**
- **Internal Convergence**
 - *Orientation debate*

The SCA discussed the issue of internal convergence.

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

- most delegations applying the Single Payment Scheme indicated that they could not accept the principle of reaching a uniform level of distribution of direct support within Member States by 2019 as proposed by the Commission. For these delegations, the principle of a uniform level would be more acceptable if sufficient flexibility were built into the transition towards such a uniform level with a more gradual adjustment process, including on the first of the steps to be made.
- for some of those delegations sufficient flexibility would imply achieving consistency with the model proposed by the Commission for external convergence, allowing Member States to apply the greening component as a percentage of the basic payment established at individual level, instead of a national or regional flat rate and flexibility on the determination of eligible surface areas. In this context they referred to the joint paper from the Irish, Danish, Spanish, Italian, Luxembourg and Portuguese delegations in document 14379/12.
- for a few of those delegations sufficient flexibility could include differentiating the level of basic and/or green payments according to production; on this suggestion, those delegations also insisted on the need for equal treatment with Member States applying the Single Area Payment Scheme. In this context they referred to the joint paper drawn up by the Austrian, Belgian, Czech, Hungarian and Slovenian delegations in document 14294/12. The concerns about coupled payments and WTO compatibility were noted.
- a few delegations applying the Single Payment Scheme could accept the principle of reaching a uniform level of distribution of direct support within Member States by 2019 as proposed by the Commission, but expressed sympathy for the concerns expressed. The comments and suggestions of other delegations were also noted.

The SCA further took note of:

- the request for further flexibility made by Member States applying the Single Area Payment Scheme, of the support shown by some of these delegations for the requests made by the Member States applying the Single Payment Scheme on the condition that their concerns would also be taken into account, and that the Presidency had tabled this issue on the agenda of the Working Party on Horizontal Agricultural Questions on 2 October 2012.
- the comments made by the Commission representative.

7. **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of aromatised wine products**

- *Oral Presidency debriefing*

The SCA took note of the information given by the Presidency on the outcome of the first informal trilogue that took place on 26 September 2012 and on the Presidency's intention at this stage to proceed to a second trilogue on the basis of the existing mandate (doc 10767/12 ADD 1).

8. **Organisation of future work**

The Presidency informed the SCA on the preparation of its next meeting on 8 October 2012.
