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NOTE

From: General Secretariat
To: Delegations

No. Cion prop.: 15396/11 + REV 1, REV 2 (NL), REV 3 - COM(2011) 625 final/3

Subject: 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*)
- Presidency questionnaire on internal convergence

With a view to structure the debate in Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") at its session on 22-23 October 2012, delegations will find in Annex the questionnaire drawn up by the Presidency on internal convergence.

CAP REFORM : DIRECT PAYMENTS

Presidency questionnaire

Internal convergence

The Presidency has noted the concerns of many Member States applying the Single Payment Scheme about the difficulties in achieving a uniform level of distribution of direct support at national or regional level (internal convergence) by 2019.

The Presidency has also noted the Commission's openness to address these concerns and to consider suggestions for some flexibility in the rhythm and methodology of progress, without prejudice to the principle of achieving internal convergence.

Delegations are therefore asked to respond to the following questions:

Question 1

Do you agree that a direct payments system based on historical levels of payment constitutes an outdated concept in need of reform?

Question 2

Can you accept the principle that all Member States should be required to achieve or maintain significant and irreversible progress towards uniform per hectare payments on a national or regional level by 2019?

Question 3

What form of flexibility could be designed to avoid unacceptable disruptive effects during the process of convergence, in particular as regards the timing, level and composition of the initial steps towards convergence?
