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THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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From: Presidency

To: Council

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Subject: 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) (*CAP Reform*)  
- *Presidency questionnaire*

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With a view to structuring the debate in Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") at its session on 28-29 November 2012, delegations will find in the Annex the questionnaire drawn up by the Presidency on rural development.

### Presidency questionnaire on Rural Development

Making progress in the discussion of the Commission's proposal for a new Rural Development Regulation was a declared priority of the Cyprus Presidency. The Presidency considers that Member States and their administrations must have sufficient clarity on the main elements of this Regulation to be able to start early their planning and programming process for the next period 2014-2020.

In addition to a considerable number of meetings held at Working Party and SCA level, Ministers held a number of fruitful debates on the content of the proposed Regulation both during this and the previous Presidencies.

At its meeting on 19 November 2012, the SCA held a debate on the draft rural development regulation. While acknowledging that considerable progress has been made on the text of the Regulation, some delegations nevertheless signalled that further discussion may be needed on some provisions and that, in any case, the Regulation should be appraised in its entirety and as a package with other regulations, without prejudice to the negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework and on the Common Provisions Regulation.

The Presidency would like to acknowledge once more that the principle of "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed" applies as much to this Regulation as to the whole CAP reform package.

While there may not be a need for delegations to repeat well-known and well established positions that have already been taken note of, **Ministers are invited to signal, in a clear and concise way, the most important issues that they consider outstanding and in need of further discussion in the Council preparatory bodies and at Council level in the near future.**