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From:	Delegations
To:	Council
No. Cion doc.:	16591/13 - COM(2013) 812 final
Subject:	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on information provision and promotion measures for agricultural products on the internal market and in third countries <i>- Delegation's comments</i>

With a view to the meeting of the Council "Agriculture and Fisheries" on 17 February 2014, delegations will find attached, in the Annex, a common declaration from the Bulgarian, Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian, Slovenian and Slovak delegations on the above proposal.

**COMMON DECLARATION OF HUNGARY, BULGARIA, THE CZECH REPUBLIC,
POLAND, ROMANIA, SLOVENIA AND SLOVAKIA ON THE PROPOSAL ON
INFORMATION PROVISION AND PROMOTION MEASURES FOR AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTS ON THE INTERNAL MARKET AND IN THIRD COUNTRIES**

WE SUPPORT the efforts to strengthen the competitiveness of European agriculture both on the internal market and in third countries.

WE WELCOME the Commission's proposal and we consider it as a good basis for further negotiations.

Nevertheless, WE CONSIDER that both the information and promotion measures should be eligible on the internal and external market.

WE WELCOME the broader scope of eligible products both on the internal and external market, however, WE UNDERLINE the need to put greater emphasis on taking into consideration Member States' national priorities in the EU promotion strategy.

WE UNDERLINE the need of maintaining the possibility for Member States to co-finance both the simple and multi programmes from their national budgets and to participate in the programme selection process.

WE UNDERLINE the need to put greater emphasis on promoting European agricultural products in emerging eastern markets and REMIND the importance of the EU internal market with special regard to the ongoing negotiations on bilateral trade agreements.

WE HIGHLIGHT that Central- and Eastern- European Member States are in the process of developing national quality schemes, therefore greater emphasis should be put on these schemes in the new promotion measures.

WE POINT OUT that the budget for promotion measures should not have any negative impact on the financing of direct payments.

WE WELCOME the higher the co-financing rate in order to boost children's fruit and vegetable consumption as well as promotion programmes related to third countries.

WE UNDERLINE that greater emphasis should be put on small and medium size enterprises, especially to those, which are not members of any national trade or inter-trade organisations or producer organisations.

WE SUPPORT the Hellenic Presidency in reaching a solid and balanced agreement in the Council and WE CONFIRM our willingness to help to reach this goal.
