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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Distribution of foodstuff surpluses to most deprived persons and limitation
of food waste
- Information from the Italian delegation

In view of the meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture on 13 February 2017, delegations will find in Annex a note from the Italian delegation on the above subject, to be dealt with under "Any Other Business".

SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE, FEBRUARY 13TH 2017

IT DOCUMENT

Subject: *Italian measures related to food waste, national Law no. 166 of 19 August 2016*

“Measures regarding donation and distribution of food products and pharmaceuticals for social solidarity and for the decreasing of food waste” published in the OJ no. 202 of 30 August 2016.

Food surpluses are caused by different reasons involving the whole agro-food chain through to the end-user.

Assuming that first of all it is important to take action in terms of prevention, we must underline that surpluses must not be considered as negative and they will not become “waste” if they are utilized for social aims in human consumption. In fact, Italy considers that food surpluses must be reemployed following a hierarchy of utilisation which must include, first of all, the reemploy in food nutrition for social purposes. Should it be not possible, products should be used for feedstuff and only if also this possibility was not achieved, food would be utilised for bio energies or, at last, they would turn into garbage.

In order to encourage recovery of food products, long ago Italy regulated donation with the aim of facilitating work of charitable organizations and assuring tax incentives for companies which made donation. Thanks to the law 166/2016, Italy has given a regulatory framework to donation and an innovative approach is introduced. Herewith, the main innovations are listed:

- Creation of the hierarchy for the use of food surpluses.

- Definition of food waste: that is products which are discarded for commercial reasons or because they are near of their expiration even if till edible which have not been intended for foodstuff or feedstuff.
- Definition of food surpluses: edible products which have not been sold or have not been placed on the market because of different reasons.
- Products which can be donated: food surplus with imperfections in labelling or packaging, which have not been sold or have been withdrawn from the market; products exceeded minimum conservation limits; agricultural products which have not been harvested; bread and bakery products which do not need conditioning and have not been sold after 24 hours from production; products which have been confiscated but not for problems due to health security.
- Simplification of domestic regulations regarding donation.
- Setting up of a Group of national consultation (*Tavolo per la lotta agli sprechi e per l'assistenza alimentare*), that is located and coordinated by the Ministry of agriculture, which all the Charities Organizations, the food chain producers and public administrations will attend with the aim of managing the domestic fund, implementing database with food surplus and waste, deepening problems and founding also innovative solutions.
- Creation of a culture which will be in favour of donation and against food waste through a target action of projects against waste and of information to consumers and schools.
- Municipalities could have the possibility to reduce the taxes on wastes to those producers making food donations for charity.
- Regions could promote the use of the so called “doggy bag”.
- The Health Ministry must give guidelines for canteens in order to reduce food surplus and waste.