



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 16 February 2017  
(OR. en)

6385/17

AGRI 74  
WTO 33  
DEVGEN 24  
ENV 142  
ONU 29

**NOTE**

---

From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Council

---

Subject: G20 Agriculture Ministers' Conference (Berlin, 22 January 2017)  
= Information from the German delegation

---

Delegations will find in Annex an information note from the German delegation on the above subject to be presented under "Any other business" at the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 6 March 2017.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> The Declaration and Action Plan referred to in the note have been circulated under reference WK 826/2017.

**German Info Note**

**on the Agenda Item "Other" for the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 6 March 2017**

1. Under the German G20 Presidency and at the invitation of Federal Minister Christian Schmidt, the Agriculture Ministers of the G20 countries and representatives of other international organisations met in Berlin for the G20 Agriculture Ministers' Conference on 22 January 2017. The Ministers adopted a Declaration and an Action Plan.
2. The G20 Agriculture Minister's discussions focused on the following three issues which are of importance for the agricultural sector: water, antibiotics and digitisation. The Declaration and the Action Plan are both entitled: "Towards food and water security: Fostering sustainability, advancing innovation".
3. Germany intends to inform the EU Agriculture Ministers about the key outcome of the G20 Agriculture Ministers' Conference at their meeting on 6 March 2017.
4. The G20 Agriculture Ministers acknowledged the responsibility of the agricultural sector for water as the most important resource –besides soil- for food production. Taking the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris agreement into account, the G20 Agriculture Ministers adopted extensive measures in the fields of action water architecture/governance, water efficiency, access to water and water quality. Their common goal is to ensure that the rising demand for food, feed and renewable resources does not result in an unsustainable increase in water use by the agricultural sector.

The G20 Agriculture Ministers commit themselves to a responsible use of antibiotics in animal and plant production. They agreed, inter alia, on presenting a national risk analysis on safety or a roadmap on how to implement the phasing-out of the use of antibiotics as growth promoters. In order to harness the options of digitisation for sustainable agriculture to full advantage, the use of information and communications technologies is to be intensified in the interest of man and environment.