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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Financing of the EU Minor Use Coordination Facility (EUMUCF) <i>- Information from the German, French and the Netherlands delegations</i>

Delegations will find in Annex an information note from Germany, France and the Netherlands delegations on the above mentioned subject to be raised under "Any other business" at the session of the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 9 October 2017.

Financing of the EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility (EUMUCF)

Information from the delegations of Germany, France and the Netherlands

In the case of crops with a low scale of planting, yet oftentimes a high economic value, in particular horticultural, vegetable and fruit crops, the availability of appropriate solutions for the control of pests is limited (*Minor Uses*). One reason is that the economic incentives for manufacturers of pesticides are not enough for them to apply for authorizations in these fields of application.

Therefore it is often questioned whether these crops are worth cultivating, although the benefits for consumers, crop diversity and the competitiveness of European agriculture are obvious.

There are estimates that about 22 % of the total value of plant production of the European Union are affected, accounting for a volume of 70 billion Euros. Together with the European Commission (COM), the EU member states France (FR), the Netherlands (NL) and Germany (DE) set up the *EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility* (EUMUCF) with the aim of ensuring that European Union farmers continue to be able to produce high-quality products.

The main task of the *Coordination Facility* is to coordinate and support minor use work among all Member States and stakeholders. This entails the improvement of information exchange, sharing experience gained at the national levels and facilitating bilateral and multilateral projects between Member States. The substantive work is done by the experts in the member states.

As start-up funding, FR, NL and DE as well as COM each earmarked 350,000 €p. a. for the period 2015-2018. It is essential to allow the *EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility* (EUMUCF) to continue its activities of EU-wide interest on a longer term so that it can produce results and deliver as expected.

To this effect, the appropriate financing arrangements should be set up in order to secure the balanced funding of the EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility (EUMUCF) for future years.