



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 20 October 2017
(OR. en, fr)

13318/17

CRS CSA 19

SUMMARY RECORD

Subject: 1559th meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA) held in
Brussels on 16th October 2017

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1. **Adoption of the agenda**
13173/17 OJ CSA 19

The agenda was adopted.

I

2. **Summary record of the 1558th meeting of the SCA**
12841/17 CRS CSA 18

The SCA approved the summary record.

II

3. **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and amending Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002, Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, EU No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1305/2013, (EU) No 1306/2013, (EU) No 1307/2013, (EU) No 1308/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, (EU) No 652/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Decision No 541/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (Omnibus proposal)** (First reading)

Interinstitutional file: 2016/0282 (COD)

– Debriefing on the fourth trilogue

– Endorsement of the compromise package

13057/17 AGRI 536 AGRILEG 184 AGRIORG 99 AGRISTR 90 AGRIFIN 107
CODEC 1560

13053/17 AGRI 534 AGRILEG 182 AGRIORG 97 AGRISTR 88 AGRIFIN 105
CODEC 1558

13056/17 AGRI 535 AGRILEG 183 AGRIORG 98 AGRISTR 89 AGRIFIN 106
CODEC 1559

13176/17 AGRI 546 AGRILEG 185 AGRIORG 100 AGRISTR 91 AGRIFIN 108
CODEC 1585

13177/17 AGRI 547 AGRILEG 186 AGRIORG 101 AGRISTR 92 AGRIFIN 109
CODEC 1586

11274/5/17 REV 5 AGRI 403 AGRILEG 130 AGRIFIN 76 AGRISTR 68 AGRIORG
76 CODEC 1252

11247/4/17 REV 4 AGRI 401 AGRILEG 128 AGRIFIN 75 AGRISTR 67 AGRIORG
75 CODEC 1248

11290/4/17 REV 4 AGRI 405 AGRILEG 131 AGRIFIN 77 AGRISTR 69 AGRIORG
77 CODEC 1256

11291/4/17 REV 4 AGRI 406 AGRILEG 132 AGRIFIN 78 AGRISTR 70 AGRIORG
78 CODEC 1257

The SCA took note of the outcome of the fourth trilogue on the agricultural provisions of the Omnibus proposal as reflected in document 13057/17, the fourth column of the tables annexed to documents 11247/4/17 REV 4, 11274/5/17 REV 5, 11290/4/17 REV 4 and 11291/4/17 REV 4 and the consolidated texts set out in documents 13053/17, 13056/17, 13176/17 and 13177/17. It endorsed that outcome, subject to a silence procedure running until 18 October 2018.

It also took note of the explanations provided by the Commission (see [Annex 1](#)) in response to certain delegations' questions and the statement by the French delegation (see [Annex 2](#)).

In addition, it noted the information provided by the Presidency and the Commission regarding the next steps.

4. Organisation of future work

The Presidency informed [the SCA](#) about the next meeting on 23 October.

EXPLANATIONS BY THE COMMISSION1. Land lying fallow for EFA purposes:

The Commission confirms that it does not intend to amend Article 45(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 639/2014, which currently reads as follows: "By way of derogation from Article 4(1)(h) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013, land lying fallow for the purpose of fulfilling the ecological focus area for more than 5 years shall remain arable land".

The amendments to Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 agreed in the context of the Commission's Omnibus proposal do not affect the derogation set out in the said Article 45(2), and the Commission still wants to incentivise farmers to declare fallow land EFAs.

2. Control and retroactive application of the ploughing provision:

The Commission confirms that under normal circumstances it can be assumed that the change of species (e.g. from grass to clover-grass and vice versa) is an outcome of ploughing up a parcel. Nevertheless, the change concerned has to be indicated explicitly by the farmer in his annual aid application. Moreover, the species concerned should lead to a clear distinction in the grass succession, for example grass species converted into mixture of leguminous and grasses.

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As regards the modification of Article 45(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 proposed by the Council, the Commission confirms that some flexibility already exists under the current rules. According to Article 44 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 639/2014, when there is a decrease of the ratio by more than 5 %, Member States have to determine the range of farmers subject to the reconversion obligation. For this purpose, as specified in chapter 5.2.2 of DG AGRI's guidance document on the implementation of permanent grassland by Member States, Member States can establish their own criteria to target certain categories of producers.

STATEMENT BY THE FRENCH DELEGATION**Déclaration de la France
à annexer au procès-verbal du Comité spécial agriculture du 16 octobre 2017**

Points II

Proposition de règlement du Parlement européen et du Conseil relatif aux règles financières applicables au budget général de l'Union et modifiant le règlement (CE) n° 2012/2002, les règlements (UE) n° 1296/2013, (UE) n° 1301/2013, (UE) n° 1303/2013, (UE) n° 1304/2013, (UE) n° 1305/2013, (UE) n° 1306/2013, (UE) n° 1307/2013, (UE) n° 1308/2013, (UE) n° 1309/2013, (UE) n° 1316/2013, (UE) n° 223/2014, (UE) n° 283/2014 et (UE) n° 652/2014 du Parlement européen et du Conseil et la décision n° 541/2014/UE du Parlement européen et du Conseil (proposition "omnibus")

Dans un souci de compromis, la France a donné son accord au paquet présenté par la présidence. Concernant le règlement OCM en particulier, la France salue l'accord trouvé entre le Parlement et le Conseil, qui vise à renforcer le positionnement des agriculteurs dans la chaîne d'approvisionnement alimentaire ;

La France regrette toutefois l'absence d'avancée sur deux points :

- sur le règlement de développement rural, malgré l'accord des deux co-législateurs, l'amendement permettant de cibler l'indemnité compensatoire de handicaps naturels, sur la base de critères objectifs et non discriminatoires, a dû être retiré. Cet amendement était pour autant en phase avec les objectifs assignés au règlement de développement rural et aurait permis de disposer de la souplesse nécessaire à l'atteinte de ces objectifs ;

- concernant les paiements directs, l'assouplissement du verdissement est en contradiction, d'une part, avec les attentes des citoyens européens telles qu'elles ressortent de la consultation publique organisée par la Commission européenne au 1^{er} semestre 2017 sur l'avenir de la PAC et, d'autre part d'une façon plus générale, avec l'ambition portée par l'Union en matière de développement durable.

(Courtesy translation)

**Declaration of the French Authorities
to be annexed to 16th October 2017 SCA record**

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and amending Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002, Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, EU No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1305/2013, (EU) No 1306/2013, (EU) No 1307/2013, (EU) No 1308/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, (EU) No 652/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Decision No 541/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (Omnibus proposal)

With a view of reaching an agreement, France supports the package presented by the Presidency. Concerning the CMO regulation, France especially welcomes the agreement reached between the Parliament and the Council, which aims to strengthen the position of farmers in the food supply chain ;

However France regrets the lack of progress on the two following points :

- concerning the rural development regulation, France regrets that, despite the agreement of the two co-legislators, the amendment allowing an additional target for the compensatory allowance of natural handicaps, on the basis of objective and non-discriminatory criteria, was withdrawn at the end of the discussions. The amendment brought the flexibility necessary to achieve the objectives of the Rural Development Regulation ;

- concerning the direct payments regulation, France regrets the easing of greening, which is contrary to, on the one hand, the expectations of European citizens according to the results of the public consultation conducted by the European Commission in the first half of 2017 on the future of the CAP and on the other hand, the environmental ambition of the European Union concerning sustainable development.
