



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: Non-paper on trade in agricultural products
- Information from the French delegation

Delegations will find in Annex a non-paper from the French delegation on the above subject to be presented at the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 6 November 2017.

Non-paper on trade in agricultural products

In July, the European Union tabled a joint proposal with Brazil (thus far officially supported by Colombia, Peru and Uruguay) regarding domestic support in view of the 11th WTO ministerial conference in December. Its aim is to reduce currently available trade-distorting support in an acceptable manner for all members.

Austria, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia wish to recall the Commission's commitments made to the Member States in TPC on July 14th. No commitments will be taken which would require changes to the current CAP or could pre-empt the internal discussions on the post-2020 CAP, so leaving open the possibility to use any kind of domestic support instrument, including all types of instruments in the blue box. The Commission has specifically pledged not to accept any proposition concerning the cap of the green box or of product specific support, or any commitments which would require changes to the current spending levels on cotton, to treat the blue box in substantially more favorable manner than the amber box, and to ensure similar engagements from other WTO members so as to avoid that the EU make unilateral concessions.

As a consequence, Austria, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia reaffirm that the EU - Brazil proposal constitute a point of arrival for the negotiation, whether this deliverable takes the form of a decision in Buenos Aires or of a work program on domestic support. Furthermore, should such a work program encompass agricultural issues beyond domestic support (such as SSM or market access), the above Member States request that the EU strategy and position on domestic support be reviewed in order to ensure that such agricultural work program gives the EU enough leverage to balance its offensive and defensive interests and enough policy space for the future CAP.

Austria, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia also wish to recall the Commission's commitment to defend sensitive agricultural sectors in bilateral and multilateral negotiations while promoting our offensive interests.

Finally, Austria, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia underline that transparent and regular exchanges with the Council are key to ensure loyal cooperation with Member States.
