



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 8 April 2014
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| From: | General Secretariat of the Council |
| To: | Delegations |
| No. prev. doc.: | 7312/14 |
| Subject: | Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the provisions concerning producer organisations, operational funds and operational programmes in the fruit and vegetables sector since the 2007 reform ("Report on the fruit and vegetables regime") - Presidency Questionnaire |

With a view to structuring the debate on the Commission Report on the fruit and vegetables regime in the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") at its session on 14 April 2014, delegations will find attached in Annex a Presidency questionnaire.

PRESIDENCY QUESTIONNAIRE

The 2007 reform aimed to strengthen the role of fruit and vegetables (F&V) producer organisations (POs) by providing a wider range of tools to enable them to prevent and manage market crises. Incentives were created to encourage mergers between POs, associations of producers organisations (APOs) and transnational cooperation. The CAP 2020 reform introduced the possibility for APOs to set up operational funds, extended the crisis prevention and management instruments and shifted EU aid to producer groups from the first to the second pillar, making it available to all Member States.

In its Report "on the implementation of the provisions concerning producer organisations, operational funds and operational programmes in the fruit and vegetables sector since the 2007 reform" the Commission provides an overview of this sector, identifies some areas of further improvement and concludes that there is a need for review (doc. 7312/14).

In the context of the challenges the sector is facing, in particular those highlighted by the Commission in its report, the Presidency invites the Council to discuss the following questions:

(a) How could the degree of organisation in the fruit and vegetables sector be better encouraged throughout the Union?

How could the imbalance of organisation in the fruit and vegetables sector between Member States and/or regions be reduced?

(b) Could the current tools or instruments be improved to meet the challenges identified by the Commission?

If so, what modifications and/or additional measures could make a lasting improvement to the competitiveness of EU producers?

(c) How would financial resources be best allocated while maintaining budget neutrality?

(d) Do you consider there is a need already at this stage for further improvement of the use of crisis prevention and management instruments?