



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**AGRI 384
AGRISTR 31
AGRIORG 87
AGRIFIN 84
FSTR 29
POSEICAN 4
POSEIMA 10
POSEIDOM 14
REGIO 70**

COVER NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Draft Council Conclusions on the report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the case for an optional quality term 'product of island farming'

Delegations will find attached the draft Council Conclusions on the report of the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the case for an optional quality term 'product of island farming'.

Draft
Council Conclusions
on the report of the Commission to the European Parliament and the
Council on the case for an optional quality term 'product of island farming

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NOTES that the promotion of quality is a cornerstone of the European Union's common agricultural policy and essential to maintaining the diversity of European agricultural products and enhancing their competitiveness in the global market.

WELCOMES the Commission report presenting an analysis of the socio-economic implications and specificities of island farming and reviewing existing labelling schemes to consider the case for a new optional quality term for such products.

NOTES the difficulties and constraints that islands face, particularly their remoteness and insularity and the fragility and vulnerability of the economy, society and natural capital, and the common features of their agricultural sector resulting from that situation.

RECOGNISES the significant contribution of islands to the EU's economic and social development and the strong cultural identities that islanders have developed in relation to their islands.

RECALLS that several tools exist that can be used to promote the marketing of island farming products and to protect them against misleading or unfair practices.

RECALLS that Rural Development policy could be used in the coming programming period to address island farmers' concerns, as it provides for targeted funding in the areas where it is most needed, based on each Member State's evaluation and analysis, for instance Member States could develop sub-programs for specific areas or islands.

RECALLS that the EU's promotion policy provides for information campaigns to stress the specific features of EU agricultural products, particularly their quality, taste, diversity and traditions, and to raise awareness of EU quality schemes, particularly protected designations of origin, protected geographical indications and traditional specialties guaranteed, which can cover EU island farming.

RECALLS that the EU quality scheme for the outermost regions, geographical indication schemes, collective and private trademark systems and a combination of instruments such as regional collective or certification trademark systems can also address island farmers' concerns.

NOTES Member States' intention to make full use of the existing tools to address those concerns.

INVITES the European Commission to continue to consider the value of a specific quality term for island agricultural products to complement existing EU quality schemes.

INVITES the European Commission to continue exploring measures to help island producers better communicate the characteristics that add value to their products, highlighting the authenticity of EU island farming products and protecting them from misleading practices, while avoiding additional costs for farmers or consumers.

INVITES the European Commission to provide further information on existing policy instruments and possible policy adjustments, as appropriate.