



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 6 June 2014  
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**AGRI 410  
AGRISTR 34  
AGRIORG 98  
AGRIFIN 92  
FSTR 31  
POSEICAN 6  
POSEIMA 12  
POSEIDOM 16  
REGIO 72**

**NOTE**

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**From:** Presidency  
**To:** Council

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**Subject:** Report from the Commission to the EP and to the Council on the case for an optional quality term "product of island farming"  
- *Council conclusions*

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1. At the SCA on 2 June 2014, the Presidency presented draft Council conclusions (doc 10230/14) to delegations on the report from the Commission on the case for an optional quality term "product of island farming". Several delegations expressed their concerns towards the draft document while few others supported it.
2. In the light of the discussion held, the Presidency revised the above mentioned text as set out in the Annex. The suggested new wording is presented in bold underlined characters.
3. The Council is therefore invited to adopt Council conclusions on this file.

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'

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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 **but, meanwhile, by taking into account the need to avoid possible confusion within the current legislation, that might penalize the relative geographical indications systems.**

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.