



Council of the
European Union

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11874/14
ADD 1

PV/CONS 40
AGRI 497
PECHE 360

DRAFT MINUTES

Subject: **3328th** meeting of the Council of the European Union (**AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES**) held in Brussels on 14 July 2014

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LEGISLATIVE DELIBERATIONS

(Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

"A" ITEMS

- 1. Draft amending budget No 2 to the general budget 2014: General statement of revenue**
11323/14 FIN 443 PE-L 34

The Council adopted its position on draft amending budget No 2 to the general budget for 2014.

- 2. Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing uniform rules and a uniform procedure for the resolution of credit institutions and certain investment firms in the framework of a Single Resolution Mechanism and a Single Resolution Fund and amending Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010 [First reading] (LA)**
PE-CONS 88/14 EF 120 ECOFIN 337 CODEC 976

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted, pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. (Legal basis: Article 114) of the TFEU).

"B" ITEMS

- 6. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on organic production and labelling of organic products, amending Regulation (EU) No XXX/XXX of the European Parliament and of the Council [Official controls Regulation] and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 [First reading]**

Interinstitutional file: 2014/0100 (COD)

– Policy debate

11479/14 AGRILEG 145 CODEC 1555

The Presidency launched a policy debate on the legislation proposal on organic farming (doc. 7956/14) currently under discussion by the Council Working Party on Foodstuff Quality.

Almost all delegations took the floor. Most delegations welcomed the intention of the Commission to improve the current legislation to boost the organic sector and to maintain the confidence of consumers. However, many Ministers expressed their concerns to such a drastic change to the current legislation considering that it may constitute a risk for the growth of the organic sector. The Austrian delegation strongly criticised the proposal as unnecessary and asked the Commission to withdraw it.

The debate concentrated on three questions tabled by the Presidency (doc. 11479/14) related to the removal of exceptions to organic production rules as well as the reform of controls and delegated acts.

The following concerns were expressed:

- **On exceptions to the rules of production**, they should not be withdrawn as proposed, otherwise there is a risk of operators being forced to leave the organic sector. Therefore flexibility is needed. Most Ministers insisted, for instance, on keeping the possibility to set 'mixed farms', and to use non-organic seeds.
- **On controls**, many delegations considered that the provisions should be kept in the "bio" regulation and not in the horizontal "official controls" regulation. Ministers expressed divergent views on the type of controls (annual controls versus risk based controls).
- **On delegated acts**, all Ministers considered that the broad use of delegated acts in the text is unjustified. Essential elements should be enshrined in the body of the text. Some Ministers considered that the amendments of rules of production should be established via implementing acts.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

(Public debate in accordance with article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedures)

4. Work programme of the Presidency

- Presentation by the Presidency

The Italian Presidency gave a public presentation on its work programme and its priorities as regards agriculture and fisheries issues.

7. Communication from the Commission concerning a consultation on Fishing Opportunities for 2015 under the Common Fisheries Policy

- Presentation by the Commission
- Exchange of views

11288/14 PECHE 333

11707/14 PECHE 349

The Council held an exchange of views on a Commission Communication concerning a consultation on fishing opportunities for 2015.

The Commission noted the improved state of several stocks but expressed concern at the poor state of stocks in the Mediterranean.

Most of the Member States highlighted an overall improvement of the state of the fish stocks, as presented in the Communication. They noted the better scientific knowledge of the stocks in the Mediterranean, which brings to light some concerns about overfishing.

Several delegations underlined the need to set the total allowable catches (TACs) discussed later this year by taking into account the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) by 2015 where possible and by 2020 at the latest, and indicated the need to look at other factors when assessing potential exceptions. Some others stressed the need to respect the commitment made to the MSY by 2015 as a main objective. Many Member States pointed out the need to clarify the consequences for the TAC proposals of implementing the obligation to land all catches which was introduced by the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

Management plans were supported as an effective management tool and there were calls for additional plans, with a mixed fisheries approach.

Many delegations highlighted the need to secure a level playing field with third countries when managing joint stocks in an international context, in particular in the case of the Mediterranean and Black Sea. Some delegations considered also that some stocks such as hake and Bluefin tuna are in a better state than presented in the Communication, due to big efforts made in efficiently managing these stocks.
