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European Union

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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations

Subject: Policy Framework for Climate and Energy in the period 2020 to 2030:
agriculture aspects

With the view to structuring the lunch debate in the margins of the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 13 October 2014, delegations will find in the Annex a note from the Presidency.

I. Background

In January 2014, the Commission published its Communication “*A Policy Framework for Climate and Energy in the period 2020 to 2030*”. On 12 September 2014, the Special Committee of Agriculture held a debate on the basis of the Communication, and a questionnaire prepared by the Presidency (doc. 12769/14).

The Special Committee of Agriculture discussed how best to develop a coherent and cost-effective approach to the twin challenges of sustainable food production, in the light of rising global demand, and climate change mitigation and adaptation, in the light of overall EU and global objectives.

In particular, delegations addressed the question for consideration as to how to treat greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture and land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF): whether LULUCF emissions should be included in the greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target for 2030 and which legal framework should be considered - a new Effort Sharing Decision covering all non-Emissions Trading Scheme GHG emissions and removals, including LULUCF; a new separate pillar with a distinct legal framework for LULUCF and agriculture combined; or a combination of these two options. On the inclusion of LULUCF in the GHG reduction target for 2030, delegations advised caution. This should be done only on the basis of a thorough analysis of all relevant data and once an unified accounting method has been implemented across the EU.

Furthermore, delegations considered which measures in the agriculture sector (existing or to be envisaged) contribute to the adaptation and mitigation of climate change. In this case delegations believed that the CAP was already on track and that provides a good basis for climate mitigation and adaptation actions in agriculture, in particular through greening and the rural development policy.

II. Lunch debate

Ministers are invited to reflect on the main elements relevant to agriculture of the Policy Framework for Climate and Energy 2020-2030. The Presidency will invite Ministers to underline which are the most important messages in their view to be transmitted to the European Council in preparation for its deliberations on the subject in October 2014.
