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European Union

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Issues related to the implementation of additional measures on the fruits
and vegetables market
- Request from the Polish delegation

Delegations will find in Annex a document submitted by the Polish delegation to be presented under "Any other business" at the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") at its session on 15-16 December 2014.

Issues related to the implementation of additional measures on
the fruits and vegetables market

According to fruit and vegetable market, the ban on imports introduced by the Russian Federation, in August this year, continues to cause interference on Polish market, resulting in significant price drops and problems with marketing of fruit and vegetables. Currently, the average price of apples for consumption in Poland is at the level of 0.72 zł/kg (approx. 0.17 EUR/kg) which is 40% lower than the prices registered in mid-November 2013 and at the same time 45% lower than the average price for the period 2009-2013, which amounted to 1,31 zł/kg (approx. 0.33 EUR /kg). Prices of apples for processing are at present 63% lower than prices offered to producers in the first decade of November 2013.

The most important product of the fruit sector in Poland are apples, which account for approx. 75% of the harvest of all fruit. Apple production in 2013 amounted to 3.1 million tones, and in 2014, we estimate production will amount nearly 3.2 million tones. In 2013 Poland exported 1.23 million tons of apples, 676 thousand tons of which was exported to the Russian Federation. It should be stressed that total EU-28 apple exports to the Russian Federation in 2013 amounted to 790 thousand tones, thus the share of exports of Polish apples in the total EU apple exports to Russia is 86%. Due to 3% higher apple harvest in 2014, we estimated that we would have sent almost 700 thousand tons of apples to Russia. Therefore, imposed by the Russian Federation import ban of fruit and vegetable products causes among Polish apple producers the greatest losses at the EU scale.

In Poland's opinion the so far introduced on the fruit and vegetables market measures, though allowed to withdraw a certain amount of produce from the market, have not been effective and efficient enough, since they were introduced in order to support producers organizations in the first place. Having the above in mind, we propose to take appropriate action to implement without delay the income losses compensation mechanism for Polish apple producers.

Presenting the above Poland firmly believes that the submitted issues will be considered and taken into account during the evaluation of difficult situation in fruit and vegetable market and lead to the adoption at EU-level of appropriate solutions to compensate losses incurred by the producers. We hope to get support from other Member States and to achieve a constructive agreement on presented problems.
