



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 5 May 2015
(OR. en)

8453/15

AGRI 232
WTO 98
DEVGEN 58
ENV 253
ONU 57

NOTE

From: Special Committee on Agriculture
To: Council

No. prev. doc.: 8166/1/15 REV 1

Subject: Draft updated EU Guidelines for the G20 Agriculture Ministers meeting, 7-8
May 2015, Istanbul

Delegations will find in Annex the text of the draft updated EU Guidelines as resulting from the Special Committee on Agriculture on 4 May 2015 for endorsement by the Council.

**Draft updated EU Guidelines for the G20 agriculture ministerial meeting
of 7-8 May 2015**

This note sets out the priorities for the EU and its Member States at the G20 Agriculture Ministers meeting on 7-8 May 2015 in Istanbul. This document is for internal use of the EU delegations.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Turkish Presidency of the G20 has made food security a priority for 2015 and has planned a meeting of the G20 Agriculture Ministers on 7-8 May 2015, in Istanbul.

The theme of the ministerial is "sustainable food systems and reduction of food losses and waste", addressing issues such as:

- investment for the sustainable increase in productivity,
- promoting infrastructure in agriculture and for agriculture,
- enhancing productivity and human capital in smallholder agriculture, and
- advancing efforts on reducing food losses and waste.

Turkey sees it as an important element to achieve policy coherence and to promote agriculture and food security agenda across all work-streams in the G20.

The ministerial will conclude with a political declaration – a *Communiqué* of the ministers to address the themes of the Turkish G20 Presidency. It will refer to the ongoing discussions on the draft Implementation Plan for the Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Framework agreed in Brisbane (2014) and it will feed into the Leaders' Antalya Declaration (November 2015).

An agricultural deputies meeting was organised on 23 March 2015 in Ankara. During the meeting, in coordination with the delegations of the Member States represented in G20, the EU delegation expressed support for the theme proposed by the Presidency. Delegations were informed by the results of this meeting at the Special Committee on agriculture on 27 March 2015.

Considering the first draft communiqué circulated by the G20 Presidency, the existing EU Guidelines¹ for the 2011 G20 Agriculture Ministerial meeting in Paris and the EU Guidelines for the 2012 G20 Agriculture Deputies meeting in Mexico City remain broadly relevant. The existing EU Guidelines cover: sustainable increase of food production; responsible investment in sustainable and resilient food systems, including the role of small holders and private sector; international trade and market integration; gender sensitivity; the role of research and innovation; climate smart and resource efficient agriculture. The existing EU Guidelines, in addition to the ones below, will serve as the basis for the EU's participation in the negotiations on the draft *Communiqué* tabled by the G20 Presidency.

II. UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR THE EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES

Achieving sustainable food systems as a way to enhance food security and nutrition is a European and a global concern. The ministerial will be an excellent opportunity to reaffirm and promote the EU's commitment to a common, coordinated, coherent response to these global challenges.

¹ "EU Guidelines for the G20 Agriculture Ministerial meeting on 23 June 2011 in Paris" doc. 10868/11 and "EU Guidelines for the G20 Agriculture Deputies meeting on 17-18 May in Mexico City" doc.8783/12.

Therefore, the objectives for this ministerial meeting can be summed up as follows:

- **Renew political commitment that instruments already created by G20 are used at their capacity**, in particular support for a deeper and stronger collaboration on AMIS - Agriculture Market Information System, with better quality and more accurate data collection; and the promotion of innovation through annual meetings of the G20 Meeting of Agriculture Chief Scientists – MACS, with clear priority action areas;
- **Focus on strengthening agricultural research and innovation for sustainable agriculture, and on closing the knowledge gap between research, farmers and the agro-industry**, with emphasis on enhancing transfer of research results and technologies in the fields. Linked with this, is the role of extension and technical advisory and extension services. G20 could explore possibilities of cooperation and networking, to exchange good practices and policy approaches on how to make good quality information and advice easily accessible to farmers. The wide diversity of organisation, approach and how these systems function in different EU Member States and could also bring a valuable contribution to addressing the challenges the developing countries are confronted with;
- **Highlight the importance of innovation in integrated water resource management with a focus on designing irrigation systems that incorporate the best available knowledge;**

- **Promote an enabling environment for responsible private investments in agriculture** and underline the critical role that responsible private agri-businesses play in boosting economic transformation of rural areas. In this respect, also stress the need to have agreed language on the positive role of trade for food security and a positive outcome of the WTO negotiations. International efforts have already provided useful tools to assist governments in the development of such an enabling environment, such as the Voluntary Guidelines for the Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests and the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems as endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). Through public-private partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms, public funds (including ODA) can be used to leverage private participation and investments. Including risk management mechanisms could help smallholders protect themselves from the risks of serious market distortions and the impact of climate change;
- **Fine-tune the focus on food losses and waste (FLW) and the recommendation of setting up platform building on existing systems to share information and best practices.** Within the EU, there are experiences on how to measure and monitor progress in reducing food waste that can be shared. Nevertheless, in line with previous agreed language² the *Communiqué* should clearly point out the importance of reducing FLW to realize food security and nutrition and the sustainability of food systems; reiterate that ensuring food security means access by all to a safe, nutritious food supply (reducing food waste cannot compromise on food/feed safety standards); mention that reducing FLW is also important in view of an efficient use of natural resources; stress that an integrated approach of FLW requires good cooperation between all actors in the food chain, including governments (and also integrated approach by governments themselves); highlight that a common understanding of FLW at all stages of the food production and consumption chains is necessary for a better collection of data, more transparency and comparability.

² Lines to take for the Policy Round Table on "Food losses and Waste in the context of sustainable food systems" prepared for the 41st session of the Committee on World Food Security doc. FAO-COORD 2014-057.

The focus should not be only on food waste at manufacturing, retail and consumer levels, but also on reducing on-farm and post-harvest losses for farmers (as a way of increasing farm revenues, particularly for farmers in developing countries);

- Call on the G20 Turkish Presidency:
 - **to coordinate the agenda of the ministerial with existing and future initiatives and conferences**, such as the 2015 Global Forum for Food and Agriculture in Berlin (on bio-economy and its perspectives for the agricultural sector), the June 2015 International Conference ‘No more food to waste’ in The Hague (on food losses and waste and the perspectives to establish concrete commitments, pilots and other initiatives), and the 2015 Conference of the Parties in Paris (on climate change and its perspectives and contributions for the agricultural sector);
 - **to recognize EXPO MILANO 2015**, dedicated to “feeding the planet, energy for life”, as the utmost opportunity to stress the importance of food security and nutrition, share experiences in food losses and waste, raise public awareness, foster debate, and give visibility to the G20 outcomes.

- **Full consistency and coordination between the G20 development and agriculture streams need to be ensured.** The Ministerial meeting will be a good opportunity to give further impetus to the general debate on the promotion of sustainable food systems.
