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European Union

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CRS CSA 14

SUMMARY RECORD

Subject: 1509th meeting of the Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA) held in
Brussels on 29th June 2015

SUMMARY

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1. **Adoption of the agenda**

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The agenda was adopted.

I

2. **Summary record of the 1508th meeting of the SCA**

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The SCA approved the summary record.

II

3. **Organic farming**

– Information from the Presidency on the outcome of Council meeting

The SCA took note of the outcome of the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council meeting of 16 June where a general approach was reached.

The Presidency informed delegations that Italy submitted a Declaration to the minutes of the Council which was supported by CY, EL, ES, HR, RO and SI.

4. **Adoption of the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration**

– Information from the Commission

The SCA took note of the fact that Commission informed delegations about the outcome of the Conference for the protection of appellations of origin and their international registration and, in particular, the adoption of the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement, which allows the EU to become Member.

In addition, the Commission informed delegations about its intention to come back to the Council with a proposal to clarify the conditions under which the EU could become Member of the Lisbon Agreement. Several delegations contested the interpretation of the Commission regarding the legal basis for the negotiation directives and were of the view that the competence should be shared between the EU and Member States during the negotiations. These delegations did not support the Commission's request to postpone the ratification to the Geneva Act until the issue of the legal basis is clarified.

5. School schemes

- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 as regards the aid scheme for the supply of fruit and vegetables, bananas and milk in the educational establishments
- Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 1370/2013 determining measures on fixing certain aids and refunds related to the common organisation of the markets in agricultural products

– Information from the Commission on the state of play

The SCA took note of the information provided by the Commission as well as the views expressed by delegations and by the Council Legal Service.

6. Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... of 11.5.2015 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to aid in the apiculture sector

- Follow-up on the written consultation
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In spite of LU and MT having expressed their objection to the Commission Delegated Regulation supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to aid in the apiculture sector, set out in document 8813/15, the SCA noted the absence of a qualified majority to object to this act.

The SCA also took note of the following statement from IE, CY, LU and MT:

"The apiculture program provides a framework that enables Member States to finance measures that can be most useful for the sector. The scheme involves administrative burdens such as the setting-up of administrative and legal frameworks, monitoring and reporting obligations or studies of the sector are equivalent for all Member States, regardless of the size of a program.

For Member States that have a small apiculture sector, the distribution of funds based on the number of beehives results in very small financial envelopes in relation to the administrative costs. The minimal contribution of 25.000 € over a three-year period is clearly insufficient to address this question and to set up a meaningful program.

We therefore invite the Commission to consider seriously the criteria of a fair balance between administrative efforts and the amount of aid for all Member States when setting up a method for allocating financial envelopes in aid schemes including the apiculture program. The funds made available should enable Member States to set up meaningful programs that can have a real impact."

7. **Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) ./... of 4.6.2015 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) No 807/2014 as regards transitional provisions for the 2007-2013 rural development programmes**

– Exchange of views

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The SCA took note of the positions expressed by the Cyprus, Bulgarian, Romanian, Greek, Italian and Polish delegations as well as of the information provided by the Council Legal Service. It also took note of the fact that all delegations support this delegated act (9431/15) and that there is therefore not the necessary qualified majority to object to it. No further steps are thus needed in this regard.

8. **Organization of future work**

The next Presidency informed the SCA about the programme of the SCA on 6 July 2015.
