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"A" ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health, plant reproductive material, plant protection products and amending Regulations (EC) No 999/2001, 1829/2003, 1831/2003, 1/2005, 396/2005, 834/2007, 1099/2009, 1069/2009, 1107/2009, Regulations (EU) No 1151/2012, 652/2014 and Directives 98/58/EC, 1999/74/EC, 2007/43/EC, 2008/119/EC, 2008/120/EC and 2009/128/EC (Official controls Regulation)
- *General approach*

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 6 May 2013 the Commission sent the above proposal to the European Parliament and to the Council.

3. The aim of the proposal is to simplify and streamline the existing legal framework on official controls (Regulation (EC) No 882/2004) and to establish a unique set of rules applicable to all sectors in order to improve the efficiency of official controls performed by the Member States along the food chain while minimising the burden for operators. Among others, it is proposed that Regulations (EC) No 882/2004 and No 854/2004 and Directives 97/78/EC and 91/496/EEC be repealed.
4. The European Parliament adopted its position at first reading on 15 April 2014. The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions were consulted and delivered their opinions on 16-17 October 2013 and 29 November 2013 respectively.
5. The Permanent Representatives Committee agreed on a general approach with regard to the proposed Regulation, as set out in document 13209/15.

II. CONCLUSION

6. Therefore, the Council is invited to:
 - confirm the general approach with regard to the proposed Regulation, as set out in document 13209/15 and,
 - agree to mandate the Presidency to conduct negotiations with the European Parliament on the basis of the agreed general approach with a view to reaching a pre-negotiated second reading agreement.