



Council of the
European Union

011132/EU XXVI. GP
Eingelangt am 13/02/18

Brussels, 13 February 2018

5842/18
PV/CONS 3
AGRI 59
PECHE 34

DRAFT MINUTES

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(**Agriculture** and Fisheries)

29 January 2018

CONTENTS

	Page
1. Adoption of the agenda	3
2. Approval of "A" items.....	3
a) Non-legislative list	
b) Legislative list	

Non-legislative activities

3. Work programme of the Presidency 	4
4. Communication from the Commission on "The Future of Food and Farming" 	4
5. Market situation.....	6
6. Trade-related agricultural issues.....	6

Any other business

7. a) MEPP	6
b) Situation in the pig meat market	6
c) Management of public stocks of skimmed milk powder	6
d) Agriculture Ministers Conference 2018 in the context of the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture.....	6
e) Conclusions from the Ministerial Conference on Xylella fastidiosa	6
f) High-level meeting on African swine fever (ASF) at the International Green Week.....	6
g) Eradicating African swine fever in the EU - involvement of European research.....	6

*

* * *

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in 5468/18.

2. Approval of "A" items

a) Non-legislative list

5469/18

The Council adopted the "A" items listed in 5469/18. Statements related to these items are set out in the Addendum.

For the following items, the related documents should read as follows:

Agriculture

1. Fixing Regulation 2017 on skimmed milk powder
Adoption
approved by SCA on 22.01.2018

C 15440/17 + ADD 1
15436/17
+ **COR 1 (de)**

Transport

3. EU-USA - conclusion of the Air Transport Agreement
Adoption
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 26.01.2018

4. EU-ASECNA Cooperation Agreement on the development of satellite navigation and associated services for the benefit of civil aviation
Request for the consent of the European Parliament
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 26.01.2018

5383/18 + ADD 1
13419/16
+ **COR 1 (cs)**

5465/18
11351/17
+ **COR 1 (bg)**

Economic and Financial Affairs

22. Council Decision approving the external auditors of the ECB
Adoption
approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 24.01.2018

5160/18
5015/18
+ **COR 1 (et)**

Foreign Affairs

33. Tunisia restrictive measures - review - Decision and Implementing Regulation
Adoption
approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 24.01.2018

5267/18
15813/17
15815/17
+ **COR 1 (cs)**

Foreign Affairs

Additional customs duties on imports of certain USA products (codification)

Adoption of the legislative act

approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 24.01.2018

O
C

5406/18
PE-CONS 60/17

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted, pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. (Legal basis: Article 207(2) TFEU).

Non-legislative activities

3. Work programme of the Presidency

Presentation by the Presidency

□2

The Chair presented the Work Programme of the Bulgarian Presidency concerning the Agriculture and Fisheries sectors.

4. Communication from the Commission on "The Future of Food and Farming"

*Information from the Commission
Exchange of views*

□2

5241/18

On the basis of the questions proposed by the Presidency in ST 5241/2018 INIT, the Council exchanged views on the Commission Communication on "The Future of Food and Farming" focusing on the CAP's added value, the EU's key objectives to maintain and further enhance it and the appropriate level of subsidiarity. The Council also took note of the information provided by Commissioner Hogan on the main aspects of the Communication. At the end of the discussion, the Presidency concluded the agenda item delivering the oral conclusions of the debate as follows:

1. Ministers emphasised the added value of the CAP for farmers, citizens and society as a whole, and its key role in providing safe, high-quality food in sufficient quantities, protecting the environment, mitigating climate change and keeping rural areas strong and sustainable, contributing to a fair income for farmers and maintaining agricultural production throughout the EU, including in less favoured areas.

2. Several Ministers considered that the CAP's added value could be further enhanced, in particular with regard to protecting the environment, adapting and mitigating climate change and meeting the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. However, this would only be possible through a trust-based partnership with farmers. Therefore, it is important that farmers remain at the centre of the policy and that the CAP after 2020 provide them with the right incentives.
3. Many Ministers made it clear that the added value achieved so far had been possible only thanks to the current level of EU support. If farmers are to continue to provide these and further public goods, they should be rewarded accordingly.
4. In addition Ministers considered that the CAP objectives set out in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) were still valid, and stressed in particular the importance of ensuring farmers a fair standard of living. They also emphasised the need for the CAP to ensure equal treatment and fair competition among farmers, as well as with all others in the food chain.
5. Ministers generally welcomed the Commission's suggestion to increase the current level of subsidiarity. At the same time, they stressed the importance of simplification and sufficient flexibility for Member States to take into account national and regional specificities, without undermining the level playing field. Delegations advocated reducing the administrative burden for both farmers and public authorities and preventing delays in payments, building on the lessons learned from the Rural Development Programmes. Several Ministers considered that greater subsidiarity should not compromise the 'common' character of the CAP, which should remain a truly European policy. Any 're-nationalisation' or fragmentation of the CAP would compromise its added value. The greater subsidiarity should be implemented in such way as to enable the Member States to take pertinent tailor-made strategic national choices, while truly contributing to objectives agreed at EU level.
6. With specific regard to the 'CAP Strategic Plans' proposed in the communication, Ministers required further information in order to better understand their impact (in particular on the first pillar).

The Council addressed the following non-legislative discussion and any other business items. (5-7)

5. Market situation	5402/18
<i>Information from the Commission</i>	5487/18
6. Trade-related agricultural issues	5344/18
<i>Information from the Commission</i>	

Any other business

7. a) Situation in the sugar market after the abolition of quota system	5340/18
<i>Information from the Polish delegation</i>	
b) Situation in the pig meat market	5342/18
<i>Information from the Polish delegation</i>	
c) Management of public stocks of skimmed milk powder	5503/18
<i>Information from the Belgian delegation</i>	
d) Agriculture Ministers Conference 2018 in the context of the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (Berlin, 20 January 2018)	5481/18
<i>Information from the German delegation</i>	
e) Conclusions from the Ministerial Conference on Xylella fastidiosa (Paris, 1 December 2017)	5163/18
<i>Information from the French delegation and the Commission</i>	
f) High-level meeting on African swine fever (ASF) at the International Green Week (Berlin, 19 January 2018)	5558/18
<i>Information from the German delegation</i>	
g) Eradicating African swine fever in the EU - involvement of European research	5559/18
<i>Information from the Czech delegation</i>	

 Item based on a Commission proposal

 First reading

 Public debate in accordance with Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure.