



Brussels, 17 April 2018
(OR. en)

7688/18

Interinstitutional File:
2016/0392 (COD)

AGRI 157
WTO 58
CODEC 473

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Special Committee on Agriculture
No. prev. doc.:	7218/18 + ADD 1, 7215/1/18 REV 1
No. Cion doc.:	15121/16 + ADD 1
Subject:	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the definition, presentation and labelling of spirit drinks, the use of the names of spirit drinks in the presentation and labelling of other foodstuffs and the protection of geographical indications for spirit drinks <i>- Mandate for the negotiations with the European Parliament</i>

1. On 1 December 2016, the Commission submitted to the Council and the European Parliament the above-mentioned proposal with the following main objectives:
 - to align the existing EU legal framework for spirit drinks (Regulation (EC) No 110/2008) with the TFEU by dividing the provisions adopted by the Commission under that Regulation into delegated and implementing powers;
 - to make the current Regulation consistent with Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers and Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs; in particular, to bring the procedures for the protection of geographical indications (GI) in the spirit drinks sector more in line with those in place for foodstuffs;
 - to address shortcomings in the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 110/2008.

2. During the MT Presidency, the proposal was examined by the Working Party on Wines Alcohol at its meetings on 17 March, 10 April and 11-12 May 2017. On 27 March 2017, the SCA discussed two main policy issues and on 6 June 2017 took note of a progress report¹. During the EE Presidency, and on the basis of Presidency texts², the Working Party further examined the proposal at its meetings on 11-12 July, 12-13 and 25 September, 12-13 and 23 October, 15-16 and 22 November 2017. On 4 December 2017, the SCA took note of the state of play of the file and gave guidance for future work.³
3. On 1 March 2018, the European Parliament adopted its amendments⁴ and gave a mandate to its ENVI Committee to start the negotiations with the Council.
4. At its meetings on 2 and 16 March 2018, the Working Party considered the EP amendments, as well as revised texts prepared by the Presidency to further accommodate delegations' concerns.⁵ On 26 March 2018, the SCA gave guidance for future work on specific policy issues and took note of additional comments made by delegations on the draft consolidated text.⁶
5. On this basis, the Presidency has prepared a revised version of the consolidated text (7215/1/18 REV 1) which addresses as many delegations' concerns as possible and adjusted accordingly the four column document (7218/18 + ADD 1).
6. **In the light of the above, the Special Committee on Agriculture is invited to approve the revised four column document (7218/18 + ADD 1) for a negotiating mandate to be given to the Presidency with a view to the first informal trilogue.**

¹ Docs. 7488/17, 7805/17, 9173/17, 10270/17.

² Docs. 10886/17 + ADD 1, 12421/17 + ADD 1 + ADD 2, 13106/17, WK 13395/2017.

³ Docs. 14266/17, 14834/17, 15517/17.

⁴ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&language=EN&reference=P8-TA-2018-0049>

⁵ Docs. 5886/18 + REV 1, 6492/18 + REV 1 + ADD 1 REV 1.

⁶ Docs. 7214/18, 7215/18 and 7556/18.