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European Union

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SUMMARY RECORD
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
23 April 2018

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1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Non-discussion items (I)

2. Summary record of the 1570th meeting of the SCA

7556/18

The SCA approved the summary record.

3. Commission Regulation (EU) .../... of XXX amending and correcting Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 110/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of spirit drinks

7991/18

7748/18 + ADD 1

Decision not to oppose adoption

The SCA invited the Council to confirm, as an "A" item, that it is not opposed to the draft measure proposed by the Commission.

Discussion items (II)

4. Directive on unfair trading practices in the food supply chain



7809/18

Presentation by the Commission

Exchange of views

The SCA took note of the Commission's presentation of its proposal for a directive on unfair trading practices in the food supply chain, and held an exchange of views thereon.

5. Regulation on spirit drinks

Mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament



7688/18

7218/18 + ADD 1

7215/1/18 REV 1

+ COR1

The SCA took note of:

- the qualified majority support for the Presidency's suggested amendments to the Commission proposal and for the suggested Council position on the European Parliament amendments set out in doc. 7218/18 + ADD 1, as amended, as far as the draft Council text in the third column is concerned, by doc. 7215/1/18 REV 1 COR 1, as well as by the oral amendment agreed during the meeting¹;
- the negotiating mandate given on this basis to the Presidency with a view to the first informal trilogue.

In this context, the SCA also took note :

- that two delegations (EL and HU) could not agree to give a mandate to open the negotiations, mainly because of:
 - the substantial change of the status quo as regards: i) the definition of packaging (inclusion of bottling) and ii) the possibility for Member States to recognise national geographical indications (EL);
 - the proposed maximum sugar content that may be used to round off the final taste (HU);
- of the scrutiny reservation entered by one delegation as well as its pending concerns (DE)²;
- of the pending concerns expressed by four delegations (ES, IT, PT and FI)³ which, nevertheless, in a spirit of compromise, could support the negotiating mandate given to the Presidency;
- of the Commission position.

¹ The introductory sentence of the 6th subparagraph of Annex IV should read as follows: "The average age of the *brandy* drawn from the solera **shall** be calculated using the following formula: ...".

² DE subsequently lifted its scrutiny reservation and agreed to the mandate as presented in the SCA of 23 April.

³ See the IT and PT declarations in the Annex to this Summary Record.

6. Organisation of future work

The Presidency informed the SCA about the next SCA meeting on 14 May 2018.

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- First reading
 - Item based on a Commission proposal
-

5. Regulation on spirit drinks

Mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament



7688/18

7218/18 + ADD 1

7215/1/18 REV 1

+ COR1

DECLARATIONS FROM ITALY AND PORTUGAL ON DOC. 7215/1/18 REV 1**(a) Declaration from Italy**

"Italy appreciates the efforts made by the Presidency in dealing with this dossier.

We thank the Presidency for the precisions settled about labelling of dynamic aged *brandies*, nevertheless we stay on the point that concerning the definition of *Brandy* it is necessary to better define derogations about dynamic ageing and rounding off.

In particular, we ask the trilogue to commit to more precise derogations and rules settled in Annex II 5(g) and in Annex IV. To this scope, rules and controls equivalent to GIs should be provided.

Furthermore, for the definition of *Brandy* we do remain on the idea that concerning the "rounding off", the proposed limit of 35 g is far higher than usual, so we strongly invite to settle the limit at 20 g/L, allowing countries that traditionally use a higher level to apply national derogations.

Moreover, Italy would like to draw the attention on "dry" term discipline: "dry" should remain linked to sensory descriptions and not to claim sugar content.

Hence, we do request the trilogue to pledge for reaching a consensual and better solution about the problematic of the definition of *Brandy*."

(b) Declaration from Portugal related to Annex II (Categories of spirit drinks), Category 5 (*Brandy* or *Weinbrand*), point (g) (labelling of *Brandy* aged by using the dynamic ageing system known as "solera e criaderas system")

"Portugal considers that the version of the text for the labelling of *Brandy* aged by using the dynamic ageing system known as "solera e criaderas system" in the document 7214/18 of 20 March, in which the obligation of the indication of two ages ("age of the youngest alcoholic component" and "average age") in the same visual field was already mentioned, was sufficient in terms of consumer information. Portugal considers that the present text that includes the obligation of using the same font size (in document 7215/1/18 REV 1) is excessive in terms of labelling and sees no added value."