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NOTE

From: Special Committee on Agriculture
To: Council

Subject: Draft updated EU Guidelines for the G20 Agriculture Ministers meeting, 27-28 July 2018, Buenos Aires

Delegations will find in Annex the text of the draft updated EU Guidelines as approved by the Special Committee on Agriculture on 14 May 2018 for endorsement by the Council.

Draft updated EU Guidelines for the G20 Agriculture Ministers Meeting**on 27 – 28 July 2018, Buenos Aires, Argentina**

This note sets out the priorities for the EU and its Member States at the G20 Agriculture Ministers meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 27 – 28 July 2018. This document is for internal use of the EU delegations.

I. INTRODUCTION

Argentina holds the G20 Presidency in 2018 and has foreseen a G20 Agriculture Ministers Meeting (AMM), on 27 - 28 July 2018, in Buenos Aires. The first aim of the meeting is to emphasise the commitment of G20 to a sustainable food future. The Argentine G20 Presidency highlights the importance of promoting healthy soils to support the role of agriculture in sustainable human development. In addition, the Argentine G20 Presidency refers to the leading G20 policy positions on information and communication technologies, food loss and waste, trade and investment AMIS, and antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and welcomes the stocktaking exercise adopted under the German G20 Presidency.

Considering the draft G20 Agriculture Ministers Communiqué of 28 February 2018 circulated by the G20 Presidency (enclosed as Annex II), the existing EU Guidelines¹ remain broadly relevant and cover several of the issues raised in the draft 2018 G20 AMM Communiqué. The existing EU Guidelines, in addition to the ones below, will serve as the basis for the EU's participation in the negotiations on the draft Declaration tabled by the G20 Argentine Presidency.

¹ "EU Guidelines for the G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting on 23 June 2011 in Paris" doc.10868/11; "EU Guidelines for the G20 Agriculture Deputies meeting on 17-18 May in Mexico City" doc.8783/12; "Updated EU Guidelines for the G20 Agriculture ministerial meeting on 7-8 May 2015 in Istanbul" doc. 8453/15; "Updated Guidelines for the G20 Agriculture ministers meeting on 3 June 2016 in Xi'an" doc. 8625/16; "Draft updated EU Guidelines for the G20 Agriculture Ministers Meeting on 22 January 2017, Berlin, Germany" doc.15411/16.

II. GUIDELINES FOR THE EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES

1. On the sustainable food future: the issue is closely linked to the implementation of the agricultural policy related Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030; the Guidelines of 2016 apply.
2. On healthy soils:
 - Affirm the key role of healthy soils in food production, mitigation of climate change, preserving biodiversity and other essential ecosystem functions and stress the importance of soil conservation, recovery and sustainable use in enabling these functions.
 - Welcome the exchange of experience and collaboration on promoting sustainable use of soils and emphasise the importance of research and of enhancing the quality and quantity of soil data and information.
 - Reaffirm commitment to achieve the SDGs related to soil, particularly SDG 15 "Life on land" aiming to sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
3. On information and communication technologies (ICTs) in agriculture: the Guidelines of 2016 and the Guidelines of 2017 apply.
4. On food loss and waste: the Guidelines of 2016 and the Guidelines of 2015 apply.
5. On agriculture trade and investment: the Guidelines of 2016 apply, and we reemphasize the efforts to promote responsible agriculture investment and trade, and to engage the private sector and other stakeholders.
6. On transparency of agricultural markets, in particular the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS): all previous Guidelines apply.

7. On combating Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR): the Guidelines of 2017 and the Guidelines of 2016 apply.
 8. Coherence with the Development Working Group and other G20 formations should be ensured.
 9. Regular meetings of G20 Agriculture Ministers are welcome to address substantive policy issues.
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