



Council of the
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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: 2019 election of the next Director-General of the FAO
- *Information from the French delegation*

Delegations will find in Annex an information note from the French delegation on the above mentioned subject to be raised under "Any other business" at the session of the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 16 July 2018.

2019 election of the next Director-General of the FAO

Throughout the first half of 2018 the Bulgarian Presidency has been conducting an innovatory process aimed at reaching agreement on a 'single EU candidate' for the election in 2019 of the next Director-General (DG) of FAO. To progress towards this goal, the Presidency organised an informal lunch on 29 January 2018, on the subject of the election of the next Director-General of FAO. Following this lunch, the Council's FAO Coordination Working Party was given the job of working on draft Council conclusions and on an 'indicative list of the required skills determining the profile of a single candidate to be proposed by the EU and its Member States for the election of the DG of FAO in 2019'.

The Presidency also presented to the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 20 March 2018 a 'roadmap for working towards an agreement on a 'single EU candidate' for the FAO Director-General election in mid-2019'. This roadmap included a timetable stipulating inter alia that Member States would express their wish to present a candidate for this election by 2 May at the latest. In the absence of any proposals from Member States by that date, at the informal Council meeting held in Sofia on 2 and 3 June the Presidency proposed 18 June as a new deadline.

At the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 18 June 2018, the French authorities responded to this call, announcing that in the coming weeks France would be presenting a candidate for the election of the DG of FAO. The Bulgarian Presidency drew attention to the time required for an efficient campaign and stated that the file had now been passed on to the incoming Austrian Presidency.

At this same Council meeting, the 'Council conclusions on the EU and its Member States' medium-term priorities for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)', prepared by the FAO Coordination Working Party, were adopted. The adoption of these conclusions is an important step as regards the coming election.

In this context, and in line with the announcement made on 18 June, the French authorities wish to provide details of this candidate as an 'any other business' item at the meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 16 July.