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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations

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

Delegations will find in Annex an information note from the Presidency on the above mentioned subject to be raised under "Any other business" at the session of the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 15 October 2018.

The election of the next Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) will take place at the 41st FAO Conference in June 2019, when the term of office of the current Director-General, Mr José Graziano da Silva from Brazil, comes to an end.

With a view to this election, the 'Agriculture and Fisheries' Council adopted on 18 June 2018 Council Conclusions setting out the EU and its Member States' medium-term priorities for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)¹.

During an informal lunch discussion held in the margins of the 'Agriculture and Fisheries' Council on 29 January 2018, Ministers agreed that there were sound reasons to take a strategic and coordinated approach to the 2019 DG election in the FAO, in particular by working towards an agreement on a single candidate from the EU Member States. In addition, they recognised that such a single candidate should be identified in a timely manner, so as to allow her or him to conduct an effective election campaign.

Based on this clear political guidance, the Bulgarian Presidency launched an informal process with a roadmap to work towards an agreement on a single candidate. At the meeting of the 'Agriculture and Fisheries' Council on 16 July 2018, the French delegation put forward the candidacy of Ms Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle, former Under Secretary of State and former Executive Director of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).² No other delegations indicated their intention to put forward a candidate.

¹ 10227/18.

² 11012/18.

As provided for in the above-mentioned roadmap, the Presidency offered the candidate the opportunity to present herself at the informal meeting of the Agriculture Ministers at Schloss Hof in Austria on 25 September 2018. The Presidency noted that her candidacy met with very broad support and that it would inform the Council accordingly at one of its next meetings, thus concluding the informal process.
