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European Union

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

Subject: Market situation in particular following the invasion of Ukraine

- Information from the Commission
- Exchange of views

With a view to the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 25 April 2023, delegations will find in the Annex a background document on the above subject.

On 30 January, in the context of the Ministerial debate on the situation of EU agricultural markets in the AGRIFISH Council, it appeared that the current crisis had two facets, namely the impact of the Russian aggression of Ukraine and the resulting economic consequences which affected all EU farmers and the impact of trade liberalisation for Ukrainian products which affected some farmers in neighbouring Member States more than those in others.

On 23 February, the Commission presented a proposal to renew the suspension of import duties, quotas and trade defense measures on Ukrainian exports to the European Union – known as the Autonomous Trade Measures (ATMs) – for another year.

At the AGRIFISH Council meeting on March 20, Commissioner Wojciechowski presented a package of support worth EUR 56.3 million, paid from the agricultural reserve, to support farmers in Bulgaria, Poland and Romania, proposing an allocation of EUR 29.5 million to Poland, EUR16.75m to Bulgaria & EUR10.05m to Romania. The allocation was done based on objective criteria such as pressure on local prices from excessive supply of cereals/oilseeds and tensions in the logistical chains from increased transit of products from Ukraine. On 30 March, the Committee for the Common Organisation of the Agricultural Markets voted in favour of the draft Implementing Regulation on the support package.

On 31 March, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria wrote to the President of the Commission on measures counteracting the negative effects of the increased imports of agricultural products from Ukraine on the EU market. Some of these Member States also announced restrictive measures to protect their local agricultural sectors from the flow of imported agricultural products from Ukraine.

In reply, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced on 19 April that the Commission was working on a second support package worth about €100 million and measures to ensure that Solidarity Lanes achieved their objective of securing the effective transit of vital crops.