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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB item for the meeting of the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council on 21-22 October 2024. EU response to extreme climate events (crisis management) <i>- Information from Portugal, supported by Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece and Italy.</i>

Delegations will find in the Annex a document on the above subject to be presented by Portugal, supported by Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece and Italy, under "Any other business" at the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council on 21-22 October 2024.

EU response to the consequences of extreme climate events Funding crisis measures in the European Union

Information from the Portugal, supported by Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece and Italy.

European governance of extreme climate events, through compensation and reconstruction of areas affected by extreme weather events, requires an in-depth reflection on the effectiveness and efficiency of the political and regulatory framework currently in place.

The European Union has been feeling the consequences of climate change more intensely, with greater or lesser territorial coverage, especially of extreme phenomena such as droughts, floods, fires and severe weather, as well as an increase in the incidence of new diseases and pests. We emphasise that these events occur all over the EU, varying only in the type of crisis, with the common denominator being the profoundly negative consequences that impact the most diverse sectors of the economy. For example, droughts, which have become more frequent in recent years, used to be characteristic of southern European countries but are now affecting all regions of Europe.

This new reality faced by the European Union immediately poses complex and urgent challenges for Member States, namely farmers, in terms of preventing and reducing the risks decurrent from climate change, but also in terms of responding promptly to crises.

For agriculture, the most significant consequences of climate change are felt in several areas:

- market disturbances;
- increase in the incidence and emergence of new diseases and pests;
- increased risk of disasters stemming from the rise in the incidence of extreme weather events, such as large fires, droughts or major floods.

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has several instruments for crisis management which are more suited to deal with recurrent market disturbances. In fact, responses have been insufficient or not flexible enough to deal with the crises associated with climate change. Therefore, a more holistic, coherent and robust approach is needed, as opposed to a reactive and ad hoc response, requiring a more structured and systematised focus, with obvious gains in effectiveness and efficiency.

What is needed is an integrated, territorial approach to the problem in its different dimensions, differentiating the structural causes from the conjunctural, market disturbances from situations resulting from catastrophic and unpredictable situations, and the approach at farmer level.

Without prejudice to the need for shared management of these risks between public policies and the private sector, the expression of European solidarity is fundamental.

We need a set of tools and instruments tailored to the needs, including rapid responses and adequate financial resources. The solutions include the granting of direct support, the promotion of risk mitigation instruments including reinsurance operations, support for investment and innovation, support for climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, and the inclusion of flexibility rules in the management of CAP Strategic Plans, among others.

In terms of financial resources, there is a need for greater flexibility in the mobilisation of Community resources available at Member State level, and for the strengthening of the agricultural reserve and complementarity between different Funds, particularly Cohesion Policy.

In this context, we would like to invite the European Commission to consider the importance of presenting an integrated strategy for the management of climate risks and crises, specifying the aspects of prevention and adaptation, in the agricultural and forestry sectors, but also the dimension of rapid response to their consequences at territorial level, in the event of disasters and extreme events.