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SUMMARY RECORD
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
7 May 2020

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1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted. It was agreed to take item 3 after item 5 on the agenda.

Non-discussion items (I)

2. Summary record of the 1617th meeting of the SCA

7198/20

The SCA approved the summary record.

Discussion items (II)

3. Informal videoconference of the Ministers of Agriculture and Fisheries on 13 May 2020:

7619/20

Preparation

The SCA took note of the information provided by the Presidency on the organisation of, and subjects to be discussed at, the second Ministerial Videoconference on 13 May and of delegations' comments and questions. It agreed to invite a representative of Copa-Cogeca to make a statement at the beginning of the meeting.

The SCA also took note of the latest information provided by the Commission on the measures taken and planned under the CAP to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic

4. **Covid-19: second package of delegated acts introducing exceptional measures to support the agri-food sector**
- COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../... of 30.4.2020 opening a temporary exceptional private storage aid scheme for certain cheeses and fixing the amount of aid in advance 7688/20 + ADD1
- COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../... of 30.4.2020 on temporary exceptional measures derogating from certain provisions of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council to address the market disturbance in the fruit and vegetables and wine sectors caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and measures linked to it 7690/20
- COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../... derogating in respect of the year 2020 from Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/891 as regards the fruit and vegetables sector and from Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/1149 as regards the wine sector in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic 7737/20
Intention not to raise objections

The SCA took note of the presentation made by the Commission of the second package of Delegated Regulations introducing exceptional measures to support the agri-food sector in order to minimise the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, and of delegations comments who broadly welcomed the package but considered that further measures were necessary.

In this context, the SCA also took note:

- of the objection expressed by one delegation (BG) concerning the Commission Regulation included in document 7690/20, while noting the absence of the reinforced qualified majority for the Council to oppose the two delegated acts under the urgency procedure (docs 7690/20 and 7688/20 + ADD 1), which has to be confirmed by means of the ongoing silence consultation procedure expiring on 19 May;
- that, for the delegated act adopted under the standard procedure (7737/20), no delegation voiced its intention to raise an objection. The President concluded that the item would be forwarded to Coreper for approval, by written procedure, of a letter to be sent on the intention not to raise objections;

- of the request made by one delegation (LT) to include a statement in the summary record.¹

5. Amending Regulation regarding exceptional EAFRD support in response to the COVID-19 outbreak



7707/20

Presentation by the Commission

The SCA took note of the Commission presentation on the proposal amending the current Rural Development Regulation with regard to exceptional EAFRD support in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, as well as of delegations' reactions and comments.

The SCA also took note of the Commission's clarification that, in Article 1 of the proposal, the square brackets around the deadline for the lump-sum payment (31/12/2020) was a typo, which needed to be corrected in the final version of the legal text.

6. European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 23/2019: "Farmers' income stabilisation: comprehensive set of tools, but low uptake of instruments and overcompensation need to be tackled"

15048/19

15049/19

Exchange of views

The SCA exchanged views on the wider policy implications of the issues addressed in the Court's Special Report on Farmers' Income Stabilisation.

Delegations are encouraged to liaise with their WP AGRIFIN colleagues with a view to the development of draft Council conclusions on the basis of the Special Report.

Any other business

7. Organisation of future work

The Presidency informed the SCA about:

- the tentative calendar for negotiations with the European Parliament on the Transitional Regulation;
- the High-Level videoconference of Ministers of Agriculture and Fisheries which will take place on 13 May 2020;
- the probable cancellation of the SCA meeting in Split in June (together with the informal ministerial meeting);

¹ See the Annex to this summary record.

- the cancellation of the SCA meeting on 11 May, with the next SCA probably taking place not on 18 but on 25 May 2020, to be confirmed in due course;
- the intention to organise two further high-level videoconferences, one early in June and one in late June.



First reading



Item based on a Commission proposal

4. **Covid-19: second package of delegated acts introducing exceptional measures to support the agri-food sector**
- COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../... of 30.4.2020 opening a temporary exceptional private storage aid scheme for certain cheeses and fixing the amount of aid in advance
- COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../... of 30.4.2020 on temporary exceptional measures derogating from certain provisions of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council to address the market disturbance in the fruit and vegetables and wine sectors caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and measures linked to it
- COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../... derogating in respect of the year 2020 from Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/891 as regards the fruit and vegetables sector and from Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/1149 as regards the wine sector in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic
Intention not to raise objections

7688/20 + ADD1

7690/20

7737/20

(a) Lithuania's statement on COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2020/591 of 30.4.2020 opening a temporary exceptional private storage aid scheme for certain cheeses and fixing the amount of aid in advance (doc. 7688/20 + ADD 1)

Lithuania neither intends to object the adoption of the Delegated Regulation on a temporary exceptional private storage aid scheme for certain cheeses, nor questions its urgent entering into the force, but regrets that certain factors were not taken into account when considering the adoption of this measure.

Firstly, quota distribution with “only per production” key, without taking into account export proportions and its dependency is not acceptable to Lithuania. The quota allocated is not sufficient thereto.

Moreover, support rates are regrettably unchanged from the last deployment of this *safety net* measure back in 2014 – 2016. Lithuania believes that a regular inflation coefficient had to be applied here.

Finally and the most importantly, Lithuania notes and regrets that redistribution mechanism was not offered for the quantities (poss.) not claimed by Member States.

Therefore, Lithuania urges the Commission to carefully monitor and assess the uptake of the scheme with a review of the state of play in early June and come up with the proposals for the redistribution of quantities unclaimed, as well as additional quantities.
