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SUMMARY RECORD
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
4 June 2020

SUMMARY

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1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Non-discussion items (I)

2. Summary record of the 1619th meeting of the SCA

8332/20

The SCA approved the summary record.

Discussion items (II)

3. Informal videoconference of the Ministers of Agriculture on 8 June 2020:

WK 5496/2020
8228/20

Preparation

8280/20 + ADD 1
8219/20 + ADD 1

The SCA took note of the Presidency paper on the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies, on the Commission's paper on the link with the CAP reform, and on the proposals on the MFF and recovery fund, as set out in document WK 5496/2020.

The SCA also took note of the presentation by the Commission of those initiatives.

The SCA further took note of delegations' comments on the appropriateness of the three questions for debate for the informal videoconference on 8 June and of their comments and questions on the initiatives themselves and of the Commission's response.

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



8169/20

Confirmation of the final text with a view to agreement

The SCA noted that all delegations supported the Presidency suggestions as set out in document 8169/20. Therefore, the SCA mandated the Presidency to send a letter to the European Parliament informing it that an agreement in first reading could be reached on the Commission proposal, provided that the Parliament agreed to adopt its position in the form of the text set out in document 8169/20. The text would be submitted to a legal-linguistic review with a view to its later approval by the SCA and adoption by the Council.

The SCA also took note of the intention from the French delegation, later joined by the Belgium delegation, to table a statement, which is annexed to the record of this meeting.

Any other business

5. Organisation of future work

The Presidency informed the SCA about:

- practical arrangements for the high-level video-conference on 8 June 2020, in particular the fact that it would be a public broadcast;
- the next SCA meetings, which would be held on 15 and 22 June 2020; and
- the final high-level video-conference under the HR Presidency which would take place on 29 June.

First reading

Item based on a Commission proposal

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



8169/20

Confirmation of the final text with a view to agreement

Déclaration conjointe de la France et de la Belgique – CSA du 4 juin 2020

Demande de dérogation mesure LEADER du Feader

La France est réservée sur l'introduction de la nouvelle mesure 39 bis du Feader car cette mesure introduit une distorsion entre États membres et entre Régions en fonction de l'avancée respective de leur programmation du Feader.

Au titre de la solidarité européenne, la France ne s'oppose pas à cette mesure, dans la mesure où elle reste temporaire et exceptionnelle mais demande que des souplesses supplémentaires soient apportées dans la gestion du Feader. C'est le cas en particulier du seuil de 5% de dépenses du Feader dédiées au programme LEADER. Les crédits non consommés sur ce programme risquent d'être perdus, alors même qu'ils pourraient être utilement réorientés pour soutenir les secteurs agricoles et forestiers. La France demande que les États membres ne soient pas tenus de respecter le seuil minimum de 5 % du Feader pendant toute la durée de la transition entre les deux programmations, pour les abondements Feader correspondants. La France demande que cette dérogation soit portée dans les trilogues en cours de discussion sur le règlement de transition.

Joint statement of France and Belgium – SCA meeting of 4th of June 2020

Request for a derogation regarding minimal threshold dedicated to LEADER

France has some reservation as regards the introduction of the new EAFRD measure article 39a because this measure introduces a distortion between Member States and between Regions according to the relative progress of their EAFRD programming.

As a sign of European solidarity, France does not oppose this measure, insofar as it remains temporary and exceptional, but requests that additional flexibility be provided in the management of the EAFRD. This is particularly the case with the 5% EAFRD threshold dedicated to the LEADER program. Unused funds on this program may be lost, even though they could be usefully redirected to support the agricultural and forestry sectors. France requests that the Member states not be required to respect the minimum threshold of 5% of the EAFRD during the entire duration of the transition between the two programmes, regarding the corresponding EAFRD contributions. France requests that this derogation be included in the trilogues currently underway on the transitional regulation.
