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European Union

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12136/20
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AGRI 368
PECHE 336

DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Agriculture and Fisheries)
19 and 20 October 2020

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MEETING ON MONDAY 19 OCTOBER 2020

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in 11628/1/20 REV 1.

2. Approval of "A" items

- a) **Legislative list** (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

11633/1/20 REV 1

Agriculture

1. Organic farming regulation proposal

Adoption of the legislative act
approved by SCA, on 12.10.2020



11313/20
PE-CONS 34/20
AGRILEG

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted, pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. (Legal basis: Article 43(2) TFEU). The Council also agreed to derogate from the eight-week period referred to in Article 4 of Protocol 1.

Fisheries

2. Regulation on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

Partial general approach ⁽¹⁾
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 14.10.2020



10050/20 + COR 1
PECHE

The Council reached an agreement on a Partial General Approach on some financial aspects of EMFF that adds to the partial General Approaches concluded in June and October 2019.

b) Non-legislative list

11632/20

The Council adopted the "A" items listed in 11632/20 including COR and REV documents presented for adoption. Statements to these items are set out in the Annex.

For the following items the documents should read as follows:

Fisheries

1. Council Decision on the conclusion of the Fisheries Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and the Cook Islands
Agreement in principle
Request for the consent of the European Parliament
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 14.10.2020 [C] 11460/20 + ADD 1
+ **ADD 1 REV 1 (et)**
11262/20
PECHE
2. Council Decision on the signing and provisional application of the Fisheries Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and the Cook Islands
Adoption
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 14.10.2020 [C] 11460/20 + ADD 1
+ **ADD 1 REV 1 (et)**
11261/20
11271/20
PECHE

Foreign Affairs

9. Council Decision establishing a European Security and Defence College, repealing Council Decision 2016/2382/CFSP
Adoption
approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 07.10.2020 11472/20
10068/20
+ **COR 1 (sk)**
CORLX

FISHERIES


Non-legislative activities

3. Regulation fixing for 2021 the fishing opportunities in the Baltic Sea
(Legal basis proposed by the Commission: Art. 43(3) TFEU)
Political agreement [C] 11772/20
10274/20 + ADD 1

AGRICULTURE

Legislative deliberations

(Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

4. **Post 2020 CAP reform package**  11869/20 + ADD 1
a) **Regulation on CAP Strategic Plans** 11604/20
b) **Regulation on financing, management and monitoring of the CAP**
c) **Regulation on common market organisation (CMO) of agricultural products** 11241/20

General approach

The Council reached a General Approach on the CAP reform package by qualified majority, with the Lithuanian delegation indicating that they could not accept the package and the Bulgarian, Latvian and Romanian delegations indicating that they would abstain.

The compromise package set in documents 12148/20 + ADD1, 12151/20 and 12158/20 represents the Council's negotiating mandate, allowing the Presidency to start negotiations with the European Parliament as soon as it agrees on its position.

The Council took note of the statements made by certain delegations and adopted three statements itself. They are annexed to these minutes.

The Council took note of the demand of the Belgian delegation for a confirmation by the Commission that article 91 of the Strategic Plan Regulation will be interpreted as giving the possibility to Belgium to establish and submit Strategic Plans at the regional level.

The Council also noted that the Commission would soon make a statement on the issue.

Non-legislative activities

5. **Conclusions on the Farm to Fork Strategy**  11822/20
Approval

The Council approved the Council Conclusions on the Farm to Fork Strategy.

Any other business

6. Agriculture

a) **Current legislative proposals**

(Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

Post 2020 CAP reform package:



11702/20

Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Visegrad Group (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) and Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovenia on the important elements of the Common Agricultural Policy reform in relation to the agreement on the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework

Information from the Polish delegation, on behalf of the Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech Republic, Estonian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, Slovak and Slovenian delegations

The Council also took note of the information presented by the Polish delegation on the Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Visegrad Group (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) and Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovenia on the important elements of the Common Agricultural Policy reform in relation to the agreement on the 2021–2027 Multiannual Financial Framework.

b) **Local activities of slaughtering and processing**



11796/20

Information from the French delegation on behalf of the Austrian, Czech, Finnish, French, Hungarian, Polish and Romanian delegations

The Council took note of the information provided by the French delegation on behalf of the Austrian, Czech, Finnish, French, Hungarian, Polish and Romanian delegations, concerning local activities of slaughtering and processing. The Council also took note of the comments made by several delegations and by the Commission.

c) **Request to postpone for one year the application of the Regulation on Animal Health (2016/429)**



11867/20

Information from the Romanian delegation, on behalf of the Austrian, Belgian, Bulgarian, Czech, French, Italian, Latvian, Luxembourg, Maltese, Polish, Romanian, Slovak and Spanish delegations

The Council took note of the information provided by the Romanian delegation on behalf of the Austrian, Belgian, Bulgarian, Czech, French, Italian, Latvian, Luxembourg, Maltese, Polish, Romanian, Slovak and Spanish delegations, concerning a request to postpone by one year the application of the Regulation on Animal Health (2016/429). The Council also took note of the comments made by several delegations and by the Commission.

MEETING ON TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2020

AGRICULTURE

Legislative deliberations

(Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

4. (continuation) **Post 2020 CAP reform package** **OC**
- a) **Regulation on CAP Strategic Plans** 11869/20 + ADD 1
- b) **Regulation on financing, management and monitoring of the CAP** 11604/20
- c) **Regulation on common market organisation (CMO) of agricultural products** 11241/20
- General approach*
- See page 6.

Any other business

7. a) Common Declaration of Croatia, France, Hungary, Latvia, and Spain on the need to adopt additional measures in the beef and veal sector in consequence of the COVID-19 crisis 11786/20
- Information from the Spanish delegation, on behalf of the Croatian, French, Hungarian, Latvian and Spanish delegations*

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- O** First reading
- C** Item based on a Commission proposal
- 2** Public debate proposed by the Presidency (Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)
-

Statements to the legislative "B" items set out in 11628/1/20 REV 1

Post 2020 CAP reform package

Ad "B" item 4:

- a) **Regulation on CAP Strategic Plans**
- b) **Regulation on financing, management and monitoring of the CAP**
- c) **Regulation on common market organisation (CMO) of agricultural products**

General approach

**STATEMENT BY BULGARIA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, HUNGARY, POLAND, ROMANIA AND SLOVAKIA
on Transitional National Aid in the future Common Agricultural Policy:**

"Transitional national aid is an instrument providing security to vulnerable sectors and farmers, who have real need to supplement their income. In order to avoid the loss of competitiveness and depopulation of rural areas, as well as in view of the persistent differences in the levels of direct payments, we are calling for preservation of transitional national aid at the financial level of year 2020. In this regard, we insist on the inclusion of the transitional national aid text from the Transitional Regulation (keeping the current sectors and the aid level at 50% of the budget for year 2013) for the entire programming period until 2027 in the draft Strategic Plans Regulation, while providing for the possibility to change the reference years or revise conditions in relation to strategic plans.

In order to better target the aid we consider it essential that we have the possibility to update the reference years to 2018 and to revise conditions too. Thus, transitional national aid will be more targeted and directed to the farms' competitiveness without jeopardising the market orientation.

Transitional national aid is budget neutral for EU and at the same time it contributes to the effective implementation of CAP objectives."

**STATEMENT BY BULGARIA, CROATIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, HUNGARY, POLAND, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA, AND SLOVENIA
on the future of coupled income support in the Common Agricultural Policy**

"Many sensitive sectors in European Union agriculture face difficulties due to various factors. Situations among Member States vary according to their specific conditions. Therefore, it is essential to ensure adequate support to the sectors concerned to prevent socio-economic and environmental damage.

The COVID-19 pandemic situation has highlighted the importance of agriculture for society in general. Agricultural production in the EU together with a functioning internal market and international trade are of key importance. Moreover, the situation concerning the COVID-19 pandemic has clearly shown how important voluntary coupled support is for many sensitive sectors in the EU.

Certain sectors are influenced by high volatility of producer prices, changing weather conditions, climate change, and, last but not least, market crises. The result is inadequate or substantially inconsistent production profitability and a gradual reduction in the production of strategically important agricultural products, the acquisition of which puts high demands on expertise and the number of workers and technological equipment. This leads to loss of jobs, not only directly connected to these products, but also in the processing industry, along with the gradual abandonment of rural areas. At the same time, the structure of cultivated crops has been changing, resulting in a negative effect on soil fertility, biodiversity, water management or erosion."

**JOINT STATEMENT OF AUSTRIA, BULGARIA, CROATIA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, FRANCE, HUNGARY, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA AND SPAIN
on the future CAP regarding the wine sector**

"Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain acknowledge the important and effective work undertaken by the different presidencies since the proposal for reform of the CAP presented by the Commission more than two years ago. With a view to reaching a general approach under German Presidency, they wish to recall their priorities for the wine sector.

The signatories would like to underline that the COVID-19 pandemic is causing a significant disturbance of the agricultural markets throughout the Union, and especially of the wine market. This major impact, which effects are likely to last on the long term, demonstrates the need for both short-term and structural regulation tools. In this particular context, the signatories would like to stress their attachment to an orderly growth of vine plantings, through a European system for the management of vine plantings.

They deem that deregulation bears a risk of overproduction that would lead to a decrease in prices and income for operators in the wine sector. They worry that untangled deregulation would lead to an industrialisation of wine production and to the disappearance of family holdings, which knit together their rural regions. They believe that regulation is key to protect the quality of products and their reputation.

This system is an essential tool for the organisation of the wine market: it has allowed the development of wine production and new products, price stabilisation and has secured producers' income. The management of vine plantings has also contributed to protect and preserve economic value created by quality wines. This system is also fully in line with a sustainable development policy with regard to environmental, social and economic issues. Thus, the signatories consider the regulatory system to be an essential part of the European model for the wine sector.

The need of economic actors for visibility and long-term stability commands that the application of a scheme of authorisations for vine plantings is extended after 2030 without delay.

To this end, the signatories recall that the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (COMAGRI) of the European Parliament has reached a compromise and has adopted in April 2019 an amendment extending the current system until 2050. Therefore, with a view to the upcoming trilogues, the signatories invite the Council to move towards this compromise and endorse an extension of the system.

Nevertheless, the signatories acknowledge that new challenges have emerged since the adoption of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 that might necessitate improvements of the current system. In particular, the need for installation of new wine producers, the preservation of a quality production and the response to market needs should be taken into account in this regard. They are convinced as well that some adjustments are necessary in order to ensure more subsidiarity and a better adaptation in each Member State.

Additionally, the signatories deem that the draft Strategic Plan Regulation provides a more adapted framework for intervention in the wine sector. However, they consider necessary to introduce further improvements in the future national support programmes.

Firstly, support for wine investments needs to be both extended and better targeted. The signatories support:

- the eligibility of viticultural investments, that could be especially oriented to reduce the use of plant protection products and to ensure the adaptation and sustainability of wine-growing with regards to climate change;
- Member States should be allowed to dedicate support for steeply sloping vineyards for the specific investments they require;
- providing the opportunity to purchase agricultural machinery and equipment in order to reduce production costs in viticulture and improve the efficiency of farms;
- the possibility for Member State to modulate the level of support depending on the size of the companies;
- an increase of the maximum support rate up to 75% as in the case of EAFRD support.

The support measure for promotion in third countries also needs to be targeted and renewed to better support companies facing export challenges while avoiding distortion of competition on the EU market:

- Member States should be allowed to apply a variable level of support depending on the size of the company, down to a zero rate for very large companies;
- Member States should not be allowed to co-finance with national funds;
- However, the maximum EU support rate shall be raised to 70%;
- Actions for market diversification and consolidation should be eligible;
- In addition, the creation of a new measure consisting of technical export assistance for SMEs could usefully complement the promotion measures in third countries.

The national support programmes should be considered as a key tool in making the European vineyards the most competitive and performant vineyards from an environmental perspective. For this reason, the support for information actions concerning Union wines carried out in Member States should be extended to organic wines or wines produced under environmental certification.

To finish with, the difficulties encountered by the wine sector and the environmental and climatic challenges the sector faces make it more necessary than ever to mobilize the national support programmes in the wine sector. The signatories are thus worried by the budget cuts proposed by the European Commission on the national support programmes for the wine sector from 2021 and ask the Commission to review its proposal for the next programming period."

STATEMENT BY ESTONIA, SUPPORTED BY CROATIA, HUNGARY, LATVIA, POLAND, ROMANIA AND SLOVAKIA regarding the future CAP

"The future CAP should lead to a transition to a more sustainable and climate-smart agriculture. There are specific measures in the future CAP to address that. For the potential of farmers to be fully realized, different circumstances in different member States should be truly taken into account.

Also considering the climate neutrality objective, various analyses have shown the huge potential of liming in increasing carbon sequestration and protecting organic carbon stock in acidic soils. There is a strong correlation between soil pH and organic carbon. In areas where the soil is acidic, the organic carbon content is lower. This affects farming and the wider functioning of the ecosystem.

We believe that it is necessary to maximize organic carbon stock in soils. Therefore we request the European Commission to confirm that liming should be considered as eligible practice under eco-schemes and environmental, climate and other management commitments.

A similar request was on the table at the November 2019 Agri-Fish Council."

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE OF THE VISEGRAD GROUP (CZECH REPUBLIC, HUNGARY, POLAND AND SLOVAKIA), BULGARIA, CROATIA, ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, ROMANIA AND SLOVENIA

"The Ministers of Agriculture of the Visegrad Group (*Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia*), *Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Slovenia*:"

WELCOME the agreement on the 2021–2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) reached on 21 July 2020 by the heads of states and governments of the EU Member States. This agreement decides on the level of financing for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and opens the way for finalising negotiations on its reform;

APPRECIATE that the consensus on the MFF increased the amount of funds allocated to the CAP in comparison to the initial proposal of the European Commission of 2018. Nevertheless, it does not guarantee sufficient level of financing for this important EU policy, having in mind in particular the importance of the CAP contribution in achieving ambitious EU objectives, including ongoing negotiations on the CAP reform;

CONSIDER that there is a need to maintain and further strengthen the full scope of the existing instruments, which contribute to the social and economic stability of some sectors;

BELIEVE that the transformation towards a sustainable agricultural economy is necessary to achieve the objectives of the Green Deal, including the objectives of the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies. ARE CONVINCED that the level of ambitions specified in both strategies and the level of their inclusion in future strategic plans should be realistic and achievable, aligned to the decisions on CAP financing, especially to uneven distribution on direct payments. REGRET that the targets set by the Commission were not properly discussed on the EU level prior to their introduction and that there is no impact assessment of their implementation on the agricultural sector in the EU. HIGHLIGHT that these initiatives cannot have a negative impact on the competitiveness of EU agriculture in comparison to the agricultural production of the third countries. CALL for the country specific recommendation on the Farm to Fork objectives to be voluntary for the Member States and to take into account the situation in the Member State concerned and the progress already made in the past. DOUBT, in this context, whether arrangements on CAP financing guarantee sufficient incentives for the contribution of agriculture towards the achievement of the Green Deal objectives and strategies related thereto;

HIGHLIGHT that interventions that satisfy climate and environmental objectives partially should be taken into account in assessing the CAP contribution to these objectives. INDICATE that the achievement of ring-fencing and objectives arising from the strategies related to the Green Deal often requires significant investment, which will have at the same time positive both pro-environmental and production effects; BELIEVE that support for this type of investment should be deemed contributory towards the achievement of environmental and climate objectives. NOTE that areas with natural or other area-specific constraints are also important for achievement of climate and environmental objectives and CONSIDER that these payments should be appropriately counted as contributing to the minimum spending threshold;

ARE AWARE of the importance of the green architecture in the philosophy of the CAP reform proposed by the Commission, but BELIEVE that solutions adopted should be realistic, implementable and comprehensible for farmers, and that they should not create an excessive administrative burden and risk of losing funds. HIGHLIGHT that it is also essential to find the right balance between increasing the level of climate and environmental ambition and competitiveness of the European farmers whilst ensuring food security and providing public goods to the European society;

NOTE that the proposed CAP reform will shift the emphasis from compliance and rules towards result and performance and therefore, EMPHASIZE the need for a greater flexibility to take into account national and regional specificities when selecting the environmental measures;

NOTE that the eco-schemes proposed by the Commission as part of the first pillar of the CAP are a new solution, difficult to programme and bearing uncertainty concerning the scale of interest on the part of farmers. In this context, OPPOSE the introduction of solutions that would decrease the flexibility of this instrument. CALL for a flexible approach to its implementation and for measures that will prevent the loss of funds in case of lower than estimated interest in this form of support among farmers;

BELIEVE that it is necessary to avoid additional and disproportionate administrative burden of conditionality controls for small farms. ARE CONVINCED that the current approach proven that it do not jeopardise the achievement of higher environmental ambitions related to enhanced conditionality;

DRAW THEREFORE ATTENTION to the importance of the final rules of the New Delivery Model (NDM), which should contain incentives for implementing ambitious new measures, while ensuring enough flexibility to choose the appropriate tools and to avoid unspent funds. In addition, CALL for objective and clear-cut processes in relation to the adoption of the CAP Strategic Plans or the regular assessment of performance;

BELIEVE that in view of the negative tendency of the declining significance of market interventions in the stabilisation of agricultural markets, it is of paramount importance to support better organisation of farmers through introducing sectoral support instruments, also in the so-called other sectors. NOTE, however, that the currently low level of organisation of such sectors in some Member States poses a risk that direct payments resources allocated to this type of support may not be used efficiently. CALL for flexible solutions that will ensure the possibility of reimbursing such unused funds to farmers in a form of direct payments;

NOTE the common understanding reached by the Council and the European Parliament concerning length of the transitional period to prepare for the new CAP reform. URGE the Commission to be open and support the co-legislators in preparing that smooth transition;

EMPHASISE that provisions related to the eligibility of long-term commitments from previous programming periods to be financed from the CAP strategic plans should not be adjusted to the NDM rules;

WELCOME the decision to include financial resources from the Next Generation EU (NGEU) in the second pillar of the CAP, as such resources should be an important element of financial support for enhancing actions aimed at post-COVID-19 recovery and supporting green and digital transformation of agriculture and rural areas. BELIEVE that such resources should be mobilised as soon as possible without excessive administrative burden, and therefore ENDORSE the Presidency approach to provide for the possibility of using the NGEU resources in the transition period as part of the instruments under current rural development programmes;

UNDERLINE that in order to provide legal certainty, predictability and prevent any interruptions in the functioning of the CAP, the transitional regulation must be agreed as soon as possible. CALL on the Council, European Parliament and the Commission to swiftly agree on the future way of integrating the recovery funds into the EAFRD.

Additionally Ministers of Agriculture of the Visegrad Group (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) and Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania:

NOTE that the decision concerning the external convergence of direct payments means that at the end of the next financial perspective significant differences in the levels of direct payments amongst Member States will still remain. ASSESS that these differences and other objective circumstances should be taken into consideration when identifying the contribution of farmers towards meeting new environmental and climate requirements."

COUNCIL STATEMENTS:

Statement on protein crop

"Protein crops and legumes are an important protein source for animal nutrition and for the accumulation of nitrogen in soils. However, the EU production of plant proteins only represents a very minor part of the total consumption in the EU. In order to overcome the difficulties of this sector in an economically and environmentally sound way coupled income support may be an important incentive to improve the competitiveness, sustainability and quality of this sector and to increase the production of protein crops and legumes."

Statement on simplification

"The Council recalls its commitment to the simplification of the CAP management rules for the benefit of farmers, regions and Member States and stresses that the political agreement reached today does not mark the end of discussions on the subject. The Council takes note that the German and Portuguese Presidencies intend to pay particular attention to the simplification of the CAP management rules during the trilogue phase that will now begin.

The Council asks the Commission to identify, before or during the trilogues, ways to simplify the Regulations on the Common Agricultural Policy in the light of the suggestions made by the Council and the European Parliament."

Statement on the possibility to correct errors

"Article 57 of the Horizontal Regulation sets out that penalties imposed by Member States must be effective, dissuasive and proportionate. Article 57 also provides a non-exhaustive list of situations where penalties shall not be imposed by Member States. These provisions clearly allow Member States to set out national provisions such as the possibility to correct errors as this would also be seen as proportionate in line with Article 57(3) as long as such national provisions respect the basic union requirements in Article 57."

Ad "B" item 5: Conclusions on the Farm to Fork Strategy *Approval*

STATEMENT BY HUNGARY **on the Council Conclusions on the Farm to Fork Strategy**

"The Hungarian delegation agrees that the agricultural sector has to contribute to the objectives of the Green Deal, but emphasizes that the synergy with the ongoing CAP reform should have been delivered through the standard regulatory procedure.

The fulfilment of some thresholds incorporated in the Farm to Fork Strategy, which fails to define the baselines, seems impossible to achieve or may place a disproportionate burden on Member States. We consider especially the 50 percent decrease in the overall use of chemical pesticides beyond the reduction already accomplished and the 25 percent organic farming target as overly ambitious. In case of pesticides and fertilisers the reduction targets should take into account the already achieved results and the current factual usage of these substances by Member States.

Hungary regrets that the Farm to Fork Strategy was published without any assessment of the possible impacts resulting from the implementation of the targets. It remains therefore uncertain how it would influence the competitiveness of European farmers. Hungary considers that the necessity to find a balance between the Treaty-based objectives of the CAP and the environmental and climate-related objectives has not yet been clearly addressed so far.

It is of utmost importance that the contribution of the Common Agricultural Policy to the objectives of the Farm to Fork Strategy be based on a solid legal background and proportionate to the funds available. Farmers should only comply with requirements that are incorporated in the basic acts or other relevant EU legislation. In this context the Commission should assess national Strategic Plans only with reference to criteria that have appropriate legal bases. Should a Member State opt for different policy choices than the Commission recommendations, this should not entail any legal consequences with respect to the adoption of the national CAP Strategic Plans."

**STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC
on the Council Conclusions on the Farm to Fork Strategy**

"Regarding the Council Conclusions on the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Czech Republic issues a statement reflecting its position.

The Czech Republic takes note of the Commission's published Communication - A Farm to Fork strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally - friendly food system. The Czech Republic welcomes the general orientation of the Strategy and it wishes for pursuing the goals of protecting the environment, soil, water and air while ensuring sustainable production of food in the EU. However, the Czech Republic considers the specific targets set by the European Commission to be very ambitious and is afraid that their achievement will have a serious negative impact on the competitiveness and production of the entire European agri-food sector.

Given the far-reaching potential effects of the Strategy, although it is not a legislative proposal, the Czech Republic calls on the European Commission to provide a detailed analysis of possible impacts on the agri-food sector within the EU and on individual Member States. It is necessary to know the environmental, social and economic impacts of the targets well before any substantial decisions are made.

Considering the preparation of specific recommendations for each Member State by the Commission, the Czech Republic calls on the European Commission to take into account the Member States' national specificities. In particular their previous efforts to protect the environment, sustainable use of natural resources and other areas; progress already made and potential for achieving the proposed targets."
