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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Recent natural catastrophe and serious damages caused to the agricultural sector
- Information from Czech delegation

Delegations will find in Annex a note from the Czech Republic on the above subject, concerning an item under "Any other business" at the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 28-29 June 2021.

Information from Czech delegation on the recent natural catastrophe and serious damage caused to the agricultural sector

On the evening and night of Thursday the 24th of June, a violent storm with intense rainfall, hails of the size of tennis balls and a destructive tornado hit the Czech Republic, especially southern Moravia and Ústí region.

According to the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute (ČHMÚ), the damage caused corresponds to at least F3 force, with wind speeds of 219 kilometres per hour and above. No tornado exceeding F3 has ever been recorded in the Czech Republic so far. This is an exceptionally strong tornado not only in the Czech Republic but also in the whole of Europe.

Several casualties and more than 200 injuries have been recorded and the numbers may increase.

The most affected are the Moravian municipalities of Týnec, Moravská Nová Ves, Mikulčice, Lužice, Hodonín, Hrušky and Břeclav, but also in Valtice there is damage to practically all houses, public buildings and monuments, and Stebno in Louny district.

Serious damage has also been recorded in agriculture sector. The exact extent of the damage to agriculture is currently being determined. According to the information available so far, the greatest damage has been recorded on permanent crops (vineyards, orchards), but also on field crops, greenhouse production and livestock (numerous deaths of livestock in the rubble of stables have been reported). The damage is already proving to be enormous. The final extent of the damage will be known within a few weeks.

For this reason, the Czech Republic will ask the EU for assistance in particular from the Solidarity Fund and other instruments, and possible activation of support measures to help address the catastrophic situation of the most affected farms as soon as possible.