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European Union

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**DRAFT MINUTES**  
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION  
**(Agriculture and Fisheries)**  
26 and 27 May 2021

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## MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 26 MAY 2021

### 1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in 8796/1/21 REV 1.

### 2. Approval of "A" items

#### a) Non-legislative list

8804/21

The Council adopted the "A" items listed in 8804/21 including COR and REV documents presented for adoption, except the items 2 and 3 which were withdrawn. Statements to these items are set out in the Addendum.

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

8805/21

### Foreign Affairs

Regulation establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)  
*Adoption of the Council's position at first reading and of the statement of the Council's reasons*  
approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 19.05.2021



8198/21 + ADD 1-3  
6879/21 + ADD 1  
CADREFIN

The Council approved its position at first reading, in accordance with Article 294(5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and the statement of the Council's reasons, with the Hungarian delegation abstaining. (Legal basis: Articles 209, 212 and 322(1) TFEU).  
Statements to this item are set out in the Annex.

## AGRICULTURE

### Legislative deliberations

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

3. **Post 2020 CAP reform package** 1C
- 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**

*Policy debate*

The Council held several policy debates on 26 and 27 May on the three Regulations composing the CAP reform package on the basis of the information provided by the Presidency on the ongoing negotiations with the European Parliament.

The Presidency, on behalf of the Council, would continue negotiations with the European Parliament on the basis of the positions expressed by delegations.

### Non-legislative activities

4. **Study on the Union's options to update the existing legislation on the production and marketing of plant reproductive material** 2 8550/21

*Presentation by the Commission*  
*Exchange of views*

Based on a background note and questions prepared by the Presidency in document 8550/21, the Council held an exchange of views on the Union's options to update the existing legislation on the production and marketing of plant reproductive material. The Council took note of the study presented by the Commission and the views expressed by delegations.

5. **Study on the status of new genomic techniques** 2 8546/21  
*Presentation by the Commission*  
*Exchange of views*

Based on a background note and questions prepared by the Presidency in document 8546/21, the Council held an exchange of views on the status of new genomic techniques. The Council took note of the study presented by the Commission and the views expressed by delegations.

**6. Conclusions on the EU's priorities for the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS)**

 8949/21

*Approval*

The Council approved the Council conclusions on the EU's priorities for the United Nations Food Systems Summit set out in 8949/21 and took note of the views expressed by a number of delegations and the Commission

**Any other business**

Fisheries

7. a) Bilateral EU-UK consultations for fishing opportunities for 2021 and, for deep-sea stocks, for 2021 and 2022  
*Information from the Commission*

9045/21

b) Current situation in WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies  
*Information from the Spanish, French, Maltese, Cyprus, Croatian and Irish delegations*

8961/1/21 REV 1

**MEETING ON THURSDAY 27 MAY 2021**

AGRICULTURE

**Legislative deliberations**

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

**3. (continuation) Post 2020 CAP reform package**

 

- 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**

*Policy debate*

See page 5.

**Non-legislative activities**

8. Organic farming - action plan for the development of EU organic production  
*Presentation by the Commission*  
*Exchange of views*

8809/21

## Any other business

9. a) Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Visegrad Group (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) and Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania on the opportunities and challenges for farmers stemming from the Farm to Fork strategy 8733/21  
*Information from the Polish delegation, on behalf of the Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian and Slovakian delegations*
- b) **Need to support agricultural sectors affected by recent frost events** 8943/21  
*Information from the Greek delegation, on behalf of the French, Greek and Italian delegations*

The Council took note of the Declaration by Greece, France and Italy on the need to support the agricultural sectors affected by recent frost events and of their related proposals on handling this and other similar situations in the future.

The Council also took note of the additional comments made by some other delegations and the response by the Commission.

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- 1** 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)
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Statements to the legislative "A" items set out in doc. 8805/21

Ad "A" item 1:

**Regulation establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)**

*Adoption of the Council's position at first reading and of the statement of the Council's reasons*

**STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**on a geopolitical dialogue with the European Parliament on the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe**

“The European Commission, mindful of the European Parliament’s functions of political control laid down in Article 14 of the Treaty on the European Union, commits to conduct a high-level geopolitical dialogue between the two institutions on the implementation of Regulation (EU) XXX/XXX of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) – Global Europe. This dialogue should allow exchanges with the European Parliament, whose positions on the implementation of the NDICI will be fully taken into consideration.

The geopolitical dialogue will discuss general orientations on the implementation of the NDICI, including on programming before the adoption of programming documents, and concerning specific subjects such as the use of the emerging challenges and priorities cushion or applying leverage leading to possible changes in allocation of funding dedicated to migration or suspension of assistance to a partner country when it persistently fails to observe the principles of democracy, the rule of law, good governance, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The geopolitical dialogue will be structured as follows:

- i) A high-level dialogue between the High Representative/Vice President and the Commissioners in charge of International Partnerships and of Neighbourhood and Enlargement and the European Parliament.
- ii) A permanent dialogue at senior officials’ level with AFET and DEVE working groups to ensure an adequate preparation and follow-up to the high-level dialogue.

The high-level dialogue will take place at least twice a year. One of the meetings may coincide with the presentation by the Commission of the draft annual budget.”



## **STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION on Recitals 50 and 51 and Article 8.10**

“Regional migration support programmes will support comprehensive, balanced and tailor-made partnerships with relevant countries of origin or transit and host countries, following a flexible incitative approach, and supported by the coordination mechanism within the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe. They will be complemented by actions under the country programmes, where appropriate.

In order to ensure the most efficient and impactful use of these funds, in line with the Union’s and partner countries’ policy priorities, the European Commission will actively implement these priorities using all relevant Union instruments and participate in the coordination with the Member States in a synchronised and efficient manner. It will ensure that the European Parliament and the Council are closely and regularly informed, allowing for exchanges of views.”

## **STATEMENT BY HUNGARY**

“Hungary had been in favour of the swift adoption and implementation of the NDICI regulation, and has accepted several compromises throughout the negotiations, while also recognizing that most of our red lines have been addressed too. Hungary supports that tackling migration and enforcing cooperation on migration will play a key role in implementing the NDICI instrument.

However, Hungary continues to have serious concerns regarding legal migration, which is part of the NDICI regulation. When it comes to legal migration, it cannot be disregarded that the pandemic has brought about serious changes in the economic situation and the labour markets of the European Union. Worrying developments are characterized by the fact that hundreds of thousands of EU citizens have lost their jobs since the crisis began. The pandemic has caused an unprecedented health emergency in most countries of the world, highlighting the fact that the uncontrolled flow of masses – in addition to being an extremely serious security threat – also poses a serious health risk. Hungary's primary goal in this critical situation is to protect its own citizens, as well as to protect the European Union and all its inhabitants from an epidemiological point of view. Hungary has therefore made the decision not to support any forms of legal migration to the European Union in addition to illegal migration, underlining that legal migration is not the right solution to address economic and labour market challenges. Focus instead should be placed on providing decent work and living conditions to our own citizens. In light of the above position, and without wishing to block the adoption of the NDICI regulation, Hungary abstains from voting.

Concerning references to the EU Gender Action Plans and relevant Council Conclusions in the regulation, it must be pointed out that the third Gender Action Plan (GAP III) adopted by the European Commission and the High Representative on 25 November 2020, has not been endorsed by all Member States by means of Council Conclusions. As the third Gender Action Plan is based on a definition of gender which is not compatible with our national position, Hungary shall not take part in the implementation of the GAP III.”