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#### 'I/A' ITEM NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Special Committee on Agriculture/Council

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Subject: Draft REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products, (EU) No 1151/2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs, (EU) No 251/2014 on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of aromatised wine products and (EU) No 228/2013 laying down specific measures for agriculture in the outermost regions of the Union (**first reading**)

- Adoption of the legislative act
- = Statements

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**Joint statement by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on proactive engagement at multilateral level concerning the application of EU health and environmental standards to imported agricultural products**

The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission recognise the need to seek greater coherence between health and environmental standards that apply to agricultural products in the European Union and those that apply to imported agricultural products, in conformity with international trade rules. In order to tackle sustainable development issues, especially climate change and biodiversity loss, which are issues of global concern, and to match Citizens' expectations for higher quality and more sustainable foods the European Union has continually raised these standards for many years. The European Green Deal and its sectoral strategies, including the Commission communication "Farm to Fork strategy", strive to achieve this goal, and

will result in a further raising of these standards applied within the EU, including, where relevant, for imported products.

The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission recognise the need to engage proactively at the multilateral level in increasing the ambition on international environmental objectives when enforcing and improving international trade rules. As stated in the Commission Trade Policy Review Communication, it is also appropriate for the European Union, under certain circumstances as defined by WTO rules, to require that imported agricultural products comply with certain production requirements so as to ensure the effectiveness of the health, animal welfare and environmental standards that apply to agricultural products in the European Union and to contribute to the full delivery of the European Green Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy communications. Given the importance of its market in international trade, the European Union can use its leverage capacity to raise health and environmental standards globally and thus contribute to achieving international environmental objectives such as those of the Paris Agreement.

The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission welcome the broader approach put forward in the Trade Policy Review, regarding the need for more engagement at the multilateral level to address key issues, such as strategic stocks, in particular because food is an essential good. Improving global food security implies reducing instability in agricultural markets by more cooperation at multilateral level going beyond reduction of market distortions, which is a necessary but not sufficient factor in stabilising international markets.

**Joint statement by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on the CMO provisions related to the EU sugar sector**

The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission recognise the difficulties faced by the sugar sector after the abolition of the sugar quotas in October 2017, characterised by instability on international markets, stagnating consumption and declining sugar beet and sugar production. This situation is source of concerns for the EU sugar sector.

The current state of the sector and its adaptation strategies will be assessed thoroughly within the framework of a study to be delivered in autumn 2021. The study will analyse the European and national policy instruments available for the sugar sector, the respective roles of the private sector and of the public institutions in responding to the major risks affecting the sector and will identify possible strategies to improve the resilience of the European sugar sector.

The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission will consider any appropriate future policy developments in light of the key findings and conclusions made in the context of this study. Such future policy developments could encompass any relevant regulatory and non-regulatory initiatives related to market and crisis management tools, market transparency in the sugar supply chain, contractual relations between growers and sugar producers, international trade and the evolution of the bioeconomy.

**Joint statement by the European Parliament and the Council concerning the application of EU health and environmental standards to imported agricultural products**

The European Parliament and the Council invite the Commission to present, at the latest in June 2022, a report containing an assessment of the rationale and legal feasibility of applying EU health and environmental standards (including animal welfare standards as well as processes and production methods) to imported agricultural and agri-food products as well as identifying the concrete initiatives to ensure better consistency in their application, in conformity with WTO rules. That report should cover all relevant public policy areas including - but not limited to - the Common Agricultural Policy, the Health and Food Safety Policy, the environmental policy and the Common Commercial Policy.