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7552/26
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SUMMARY RECORD
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
23 March 2026

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1. Adoption of the agenda

7501/26

The agenda was adopted.

Non-discussion items (I)

2. Summary record of the 1768th meeting of the SCA

7316/26

The SCA approved the summary record.

Discussion items (II)

3. Vision for agriculture and food: one year of implementation

7366/26

Information from the Commission

Preparation of the Council debate

The SCA took note of the information provided by the Commission and the Presidency and of the comments of delegations. It therefore prepared the item for the Council meeting on 30 March 2026.

**4. European Court of Auditors Special Report No 01/2026:
“Control systems for olive oil in the EU - A comprehensive
framework, but unevenly applied”¹**

7026/26

7027/26

Presentation by the European Court of Auditors

Exchange of views

The SCA took note of the information provided by the representative of the European Court of Auditors and of delegations’ comments. The SCA also agreed with the Presidency’s recommendation that no Council conclusions be drafted for this special report and would ask Coreper to confirm this approach.

5. Updated EU Guidelines for G20 Agriculture discussions

7198/26 + COR 1

Information from the Commission

Approval

The SCA endorsed the updated EU Guidelines for the G20 agriculture discussions and agreed to forward them to the Council for approval as an “A” item.

¹ In the presence of representatives of the European Court of Auditors (ECA)

6. Trade-related agricultural issues

*Information from the Commission
Preparation of the Council debate*

The SCA took note of the information provided by the Commission, and of the views expressed by delegations on the state of play concerning international agricultural trade issues in preparation of the Council debate in March 2026.

7. Regulation amending the common market organisation (CMO) Regulation as regards the strengthening of the position of farmers in the food supply chain

1C 7358/26

Confirmation of the final compromise text with a view to agreement

The SCA took note of the information provided by the Presidency as well as of delegations' and the Commission's comments and confirmed the final text. It therefore mandated its chair to send the offer letter to the EP.

Germany announced they would make the annexed statement when the Council adopts this Regulation.

Any other business

8. Amending Regulation on Union action following accession to the Geneva Act (Geographical Indications)

1C 6313/26

Information from the Commission

The SCA took note of the information provided by the Commission on its proposal to align Regulation 2019/1753 to new rules under the Lisbon System of Geographical Indications of the World Intellectual Property Organization and of the questions from delegations and the replies from the Commission.

9. Organisation of future work

The Presidency informed the SCA about the next SCA meeting on 14 April 2026 and the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council meeting on 30 March 2026.

Regarding that Council meeting:

- Hungary requested a public (legislative) item under “any other business”, on the “Joint declaration of the Ministers of Agriculture of the VISEGRAD group and Bulgaria and Romania on the post 2027 Multiannual Financial Framework and the Common Agricultural Policy”.
- Slovakia requested a public item under “any other business”, on the “Current situation in the milk sector”;
- Poland requested a public item under “any other business”, on the “Financial ceiling for direct payments in the claim year 2027”;
- Belgium requested an item under “any other business”, on the “Situation in the EU dairy sector and the need for an EU response”;
- Spain, also on behalf of Portugal, requested a public (legislative) item under “any other business”, on “CAP Strategic Plans - National Partnership Plans: transitional provisions for sectoral interventions in the wine sector and in the fruit and vegetable sector”; and
- Italy informed the SCA that they would request, in Coreper, a public item under “any other business”, on the “Promotion of the use of digestate in Europe”.
- The SCA agreed that the items requested by Slovakia, Poland and Belgium would be taken in public session in accordance with Article 8(2) of the rules of procedure of the Council.



First reading



Item based on a Commission proposal

**Regulation amending the common market organisation (CMO)
Regulation as regards the strengthening of the position of farmers in
the food supply chain**

Ad item 7:

Confirmation of the final compromise text with a view to agreement

STATEMENT BY GERMANY

“Die deutsche Bundesregierung enthält sich zu dem Verordnungsvorschlag zur Änderung der Verordnungen (EU) Nr. 1308/2013, (EU) 2021/2115 und (EU) 2021/2116 hinsichtlich der Stärkung der Position der Landwirtinnen und Landwirte in der Lebensmittelversorgungskette in der Fassung des Trilog-Kompromisses vom 5. März 2026.

Die Bundesregierung teilt das Ziel des Vorschlags, die Position der Landwirtinnen und Landwirte zu stärken. Sie ist aber insgesamt nicht davon überzeugt, dass die vorgesehenen Instrumente geeignet sind, dieses Ziel wirksam zu erreichen. Die Bundesregierung bewertet insbesondere den mit dem Vorschlag einhergehenden Bürokratieaufwuchs und den hohen und kostspieligen Umstellungsaufwand sehr kritisch. Denn eine zentrale Zielsetzung der Bundesregierung ist der Abbau nicht erforderlicher Bürokratie und die Vermeidung unnötiger Kosten für die Wirtschaft. So ist die deutsche Lebensmittelindustrie im europäischen Vergleich in besonderem Maße von der Einführung des Fleischbezeichnungsschutzes betroffen, für den aus deutscher Sicht kein Regelungserfordernis besteht.

Vor diesem Hintergrund kann die Bundesregierung dem Vorschlag nicht zustimmen. Zugleich erkennt sie an, dass im Trilog wichtige Anpassungen erreicht wurden. Die Mitgliedstaaten erhalten die Möglichkeit, Ausnahmen von der Pflicht zu schriftlichen Verträgen mit bestimmten Mindestinhalten zu erlassen. Die Ausnahmemöglichkeit für den Milchsektor ist zwar begrenzt, erstreckt sich aber auf wesentliche Elemente.

Auch beim Fleischbezeichnungsschutz war die Präsidentschaft bemüht, die Ratsposition zu verteidigen: Begriffe, die im deutschen Markt weit über den Fleischbereich hinaus verbreitet sind (wie Burger, Wurst und Schnitzel), können weiterhin frei verwendet werden, die Bezeichnungen im Fischsektor bleiben unberührt und es wurden großzügige Übergangs- und Abverkaufsfristen erreicht.”

“The German Federal Government abstains on the proposal for a regulation amending Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013, (EU) 2021/2115 and (EU) 2021/2116 as regards strengthening the position of farmers in the food supply chain, as amended by the trilogue compromise of 5 March 2026.

The Federal Government shares the objective of the proposal to strengthen the position of farmers. On the whole, however, it is not convinced that the instruments envisaged are capable of achieving this objective effectively. The Federal Government is particularly critical of the bureaucratic growth associated with the proposal and the high and costly changeover effort. One of the central objectives of the Federal Government is to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and avoid unnecessary costs for the economy. In a European comparison, the German food industry is particularly affected by the introduction of meat name protection, for which there is no regulatory requirement from the German point of view.

Against this background, the Federal Government cannot accept the proposal. At the same time, it acknowledges that important adjustments have been made in the trilogue. Member States will be given the possibility to derogate from the obligation to conclude written contracts with certain minimum content. While the derogation for the dairy sector is limited, it covers essential elements.

The Presidency also tried to defend the Council's position on the protection of meat designations: terms that are widely used in the German market far beyond the meat sector (such as burgers, sausages and schnitzel) can still be used freely, the designations in the fish sector remain unaffected and generous transitional and sales periods have been reached.”
