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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

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Subject: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 as regards the aid scheme for the supply of fruit and vegetables, bananas and milk in the educational establishments
Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION amending Regulation (EU) No 1370/2013 determining measures on fixing certain aids and refunds related to the common organisation of the markets in agricultural products
- Delegations' comments to the Presidency revised texts

Following the Working Party on Horizontal Agricultural Questions on 16 September 2015, delegations will find in Annex the comments from the Lithuanian delegation.

Comments from the Lithuanian delegation

General remarks

Lithuania supports the revised structure of the both proposal for a regulations (Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 as regards the aid scheme for the supply of fruit and vegetables, bananas and milk in the educational establishments ("the Single CMO proposal") and Council Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 1370/2013 determining measures on fixing certain aids and refunds related to the common organisation of the markets in agricultural products ("the Fixing Regulation proposal").

Whilst welcoming the Presidency's efforts to speed up the process of revision of the School Fruit Scheme (SFS) and the School Milk Scheme (SMS), Lithuania remains sceptical at combining these two separate schemes. We are not sure that this initiative would boost their effectiveness, streamline administration or make them easier to manage, because these schemes are different in their nature, different products, different channels of distribution and the initial aims of both schemes are quite different.

Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 "Single CMO proposal"

Art. 23(2)

Lithuania supports the proposal to enlarge the list of the products eligible for distribution under the both schemes

Regulation (EU) No 1370/2013 "Fixing Regulation proposal"

Art. 5(0) (b)

The proposed 80 million euros for the school milk scheme is not enough to maintain the scheme at the current level as part of the budget is needed for the mandatory supporting measures now introduced to the scheme. In addition, taking into account the current crisis in the milk sector we suggest of setting the envelope for the milk scheme the same as for the fruit and vegetables scheme - 150 million euros

Art. 5(0) (a) 2nd subparagraph

Lithuania is not sure that aid amount per portion would be best solution. We suggest to leave flexibility to MS, as is already applied for SFVS.

Art. 5(2)

Lithuania does not agree with the proposed criteria for the distribution of aid for the milk products. While distributing the aid among the Member States, the yearly allocations for the milk program from the national budget should be taken into account.