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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 Czech delegation.

Comments from the Czech delegation

In general, the Czech Republic welcomes and fully agrees with the Presidency proposal as regards the legal basis.

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

Art. 23(2) of Reg. No. 1308/2013

The Czech Republic welcomes widening the scope of the products supported under the scheme and considers it fully justified. We have doubts about Commission's proposal made during the last meeting of the Working Party on Horizontal Agricultural Questions – to set a hierarchy of “healthy and less healthy” products. We believe that involvement of national health authorities is a sufficient safeguard against distribution of unsuitable products. The idea of additional differentiation between products is in contradiction with the principle of simplification, which should be borne in mind at all times.

Art. 23(2)(a) of Reg. No. 1308/2013

The Czech Republic would appreciate an amendment of the text in order to make it crystal clear that bananas and also products from bananas are eligible for the Union aid.

Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION amending Regulation No 1370/2013 determining measures on fixing certain aids and refunds related to the common organizations of the markets in agriculture products

Art. 5(2) of Reg. No 1370/2013

The Czech Republic supports using the same allocation criteria for both schemes, i.e. using an objective criterion based on the number of children for allocation of the milk national envelopes. However, a transitional period of three years might represent a good compromise solution. This period would also correspond to the three-year period referred to in paragraph 3.

Art. 5(3) of Reg. No 1370/2013

Czech Republic supports the Presidency proposal laying down that the Commission shall assess at least every three years whether indicative allocations remain consistent with the allocation criteria. As the number of children can change significantly, we consider the shorter period more appropriate rather than the six years period proposed by some Member States and echoed by the Commission.