



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Common Agricultural Policy: implementation and simplification - Policy debate: Presidency questionnaire

With a view to structuring the policy debate in Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") at its session on 16 March 2015, delegations will find in Annex the questionnaire drawn up by the Presidency on the above subject.

Common Agricultural Policy: implementation and simplification

The presidency has arranged for Member States to engage into two complementary exercises:

- one on stock taking of the implementation of the reformed CAP with a first look at the implementation of the 1st pillar at in the SCA on 2 February and of the 2nd pillar in the SCA on 2 March.
- one on simplification, with the launch of a questionnaire on Direct Payments, Common Market Organisations, Rural Development and Horizontal provisions (doc. 5908/15) on the basis of which a provisional list of the priority issues for Member States could be identified (doc. 6767/15) and considered by the Working Party on Horizontal Agricultural Questions on 5 March and the Working Party on Rural Development on 6 March.

Building on those consultations at SCA and Working Party level and on the preliminary input gathered on those occasions, the Presidency would like to obtain the view of Ministers on priority areas of simplification that are based also on the experience of implementation of the reformed CAP. Therefore Presidency will hold a policy debate at Council which will be structured around the following two questions.

In the light of your experience with the implementation of the reformed CAP:

1. Could you identify a few practices arising from the implementation of the new CAP which, in your opinion, it would be worth sharing with other Member States?
2. Which in your opinion are the few most important issues to be simplified in each of the three policy areas: direct payments, rural development and CMO?

This policy debate as well as the input gathered prior to it will help the presidency in preparing Council conclusions on the simplification of the CAP, for further consideration by the SCA and the Council. Foreseen Council conclusions to be adopted in May AGRFISH Council will be complemented by the Commission in its exercise recently recalled by Commissioner Hogan in his letter to Ministers on simplification.