



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 2 September 2009
(OR. DE)**

12836/09

AGRI 351

TRANSLATION PROVIDED BY THE GERMAN DELEGATION

NOTE

from : German delegation
to : Council

Subject : Simplification of the CAP – Follow-up to Council Conclusions of 25 May 2009

Delegations will find attached a note submitted by the German delegation, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) session on 7 September 2009.

Simplification of the CAP – Follow-up to Council Conclusions of 25 May 2009

In its Conclusions of 25 May 2009 (Doc. 9859/09), the Council has strongly emphasised that simplification of the CAP has to be seen as an ongoing process and continuously needs to be further developed. In order to put this principle into action, a group consisting of 13 Member States has developed a catalogue of 39 concrete proposals for simplification. In its Conclusions, the Council referred to this catalogue and requested the Member States and the Commission to consider the implementation of each proposal, until the Council's session in November.

Germany very much appreciates the Commission's openness towards and kind support of this initiative. Very constructive discussions have already taken place in several bodies. Together with further details submitted by Member States in writing, they form a good basis for the next step being a quick implementation. It should now be the common goal of Member States and the Commission to move to this step as soon as possible. Numerous proposals could be put into practice by revising relevant implementing Regulations. The revision of Regulation (EC) No. 796/2004, which is currently being discussed in the Management Committee for Direct Payments, offers a particularly good opportunity.

Unfortunately, however, in the current draft Regulation the catalogue of 39 simplification proposals as well as additional simplification measures proposed by several Member States in the Management Committee are hardly taken into account. Yet, the proposed revisions are urgently needed in order to improve progress towards policy objectives and take some of the burden from farmers as well as national authorities.

In order to prevent the simplification process, which has begun so successfully, from losing its momentum, Germany would like to express strong encouragement for the Commission to seize the opportunity offered by the revision of Regulation (EC) No. 796/2004 and to consider Member States' proposals in the ongoing amendment process.