



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**REVISED NOTE**

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from: French delegation  
to: Council

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Subject: The situation in the cereals sector

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Delegations will find attached a note from the French delegation concerning the situation in the cereals sector, with a view to the meeting of the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 22 February 2010.

Situation in the cereals sector

The situation in the cereals market has deteriorated in relative terms.

The harvest in Europe was abundant, for the second year running. This has resulted in downward pressure on prices, which have now fallen to a level which could jeopardise the viability of a large number of cereal farms.

It is anticipated that at the end of the season stocks will be particularly large, especially in the case of stocks of wheat and barley, each of which, in France alone, is expected to amount to 4 million tonnes.

Substantial quantities have been put into intervention in the case of barley and this is expected to continue in the coming weeks, to the extent that the storage capacity allocated for them in certain Member States could be saturated.

Wheat exports have also fallen compared to the previous season: in gross terms, certificates for just under 10,7 million tonnes have been issued to date at Community level for this season, as against 13,1 million tonnes in the same period last year. Certificates for barley are stagnant, with barely 0,45 million tonnes' worth issued to date at Community level compared with 3,0 million tonnes for the same period last year.

The French authorities would therefore request the Commission to take the necessary measures to relieve the cereals market, which is in a difficult situation.