



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from: Presidency
to: Council

Subject: Work Programme of the Polish Presidency
- Agriculture and Fisheries

Delegations will find attached the Work Programme drawn up by the Polish Presidency concerning the Agriculture and Fisheries sector, to be presented at the "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council on 19 July 2011.

CAP effectively serving EU goals

In the second half of 2011, discussions on the **future of the Common Agricultural Policy** will enter their decisive phase. The European Commission will submit to the Council and the European Parliament a package of legislative proposals concerning, among others, the system of direct payments and the policy of rural development and market regulation. Solutions dealing with these important elements of the CAP will be of key importance in effectively tapping the potential of agriculture and rural areas to implement EU's long-term goals and ambitions, laid out, among others, in the Europe 2020 strategy. The CAP should be an instrument that builds a strong, competitive and sustainable European agriculture, responding to global challenges and contributing towards the sustainable social and economic development of rural areas. The Presidency will start working on the Commission's legislative proposals to enable successive Trio countries to work out a common position of Member States and to conduct effective negotiations between the Council and the European Parliament. One of the Presidency's aims will be to identify a basis for an agreement on a new system of direct payments, based on objective and not historical criteria. The Presidency will also work on an agreement on a strong second pillar, together with all of its existing links to the Cohesion Policy.

In the context of a debate on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy and the improvement of European agriculture's competitiveness, the Polish Presidency will pay special attention to supporting investments relating to the **development of renewable energy in rural areas** and will promote measures aimed at increasing energy production from by-products of agriculture and the leftovers of the agri-food industry.

The Presidency will continue discussions on the **future of the milk and milk products market** in the context of the lifting of the milk production quota system planned for 2015. This discussion will be based, *inter alia*, on recommendations of the High Level Group on the Competitiveness of the Agro-Food Industry and the High Level Expert Group on Milk, as well as on proposals on the milk package submitted by the European Commission.

Measures concerning the agricultural product quality policy will be an important element of the CAP overhaul. The Presidency will continue working on a relevant legislative package.

Streamlining the Common Agricultural Policy invariably remains a significant priority for action. The proposed solutions regarding the future form of the CAP should also take account of this aspect. In addition, the Presidency will try to reach an agreement on legislative proposals that would repeal redundant legal acts.

Work will also be continued to adapt legal acts to the Lisbon Treaty.

Reforming the Common Fisheries Policy

With regard to fisheries, the most important objective of the Presidency will be a comprehensive **reform of the Common Fisheries Policy**. The Presidency recognises the need to continue this work, based on the progress made since the 2002 reform, in order to create a sustainable fishing sector in all of its dimensions, so that it can address the challenges brought about by the current state of the EU fisheries sector. The reform of the Common Fisheries Policy should ensure the sustainable and responsible management of fish stocks in a multiannual perspective and contribute to the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy objectives. In addition to the work of reforming the Common Fisheries Policy, the Presidency will focus on a new European Fisheries Fund during negotiations on the 2014-2020 Financial Perspective. The Presidency intends to devote considerable attention to the **setting of 2012 fishing quotas** in the Baltic Sea, the Black Sea, as well as in other deep-sea waters, in order to reach an agreement in line with the principle of sustainable fisheries.

The Presidency will also become involved in managing the external fisheries policy and in negotiating bilateral agreements with third countries, as well as in coordinating work in the framework of regional fisheries management organisations.

Veterinary and phytosanitary issues

The Presidency intends to swiftly start work on the upcoming Commission proposal to introduce electronic identification in bovine animals.

In addition, it will continue cooperating with the European Commission on the **assumptions for a new EU Plant Health Strategy**. Summing up the Sixth Session of the Commission for Phytosanitary Measures and working out an EU position on drafts of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, which have been submitted for consultations to states parties to the International Plant Protection Convention, will be an important issue.

In addition, the Presidency will be involved in the preparation and running of a conference called: “Legal Protection of Plant Varieties in the European Union in the 21st Century”, organized by the European Commission (DG SANCO) as part of a summing up of the results of the evaluation of the right to plant varieties and its implementation in the European Union.

Forests and forestry

The Presidency will focus its interest on stable and sustainable forest management and the significant contribution it makes to the green economy in the context of sustainable development and to mitigating and adapting to the consequences of climate change. The Presidency will also devote special attention to a possible legally binding agreement on forests in Europe in the framework of the FOREST EUROPE process.
