NOTE

from: General Secretariat
to: Council
Subject: Drought in Northern Europe
- Request from the French delegation

Delegations will find attached a note submitted by the French delegation, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 17 May 2011.
Note from the French authorities:
Drought in Northern Europe

Since the start of the year, drought has gripped Europe, and France has recorded a general rainfall deficit of around 50% and temperatures some 4° above average for the month of April. The situation could quickly get worse. Across Northern Europe, rainfall has been down 50% percent on normal levels since March.

Because of how early it struck, this drought has already affected crops and resulted in fodder shortages for farmers. Livestock farmers are especially suffering as they have been paying premium prices for animal feeds since 2010. Treasury coffers which are already stretched will have to carry the consequences of this drought which is raging in Northern Europe.

France wishes to highlight this situation and discuss measures which could be taken to deal with it. With this in mind, it will request bringing first-pillar aid payments forward to 16 October and increasing the suckler cow premium to 80%.