



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

## AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES



02.10.09

**EUROPE AFTER IRELAND  
What Next?**

9 October 2009 • 9am – 1.30pm  
Westin Dragonara Hotel, St Julian's

Registration by Thursday 8 October  
By email: [info.meusac@gov.mt](mailto:info.meusac@gov.mt)  
By telephone: 2200 3300  
Website: [www.meusac.gov.mt](http://www.meusac.gov.mt)

The proceedings of the Conference will be in Maltese and English. Translation into English will be provided.



### Agriculture and Rural Development

Commission to recover € 214.6 million of CAP expenditure from the Member States –  
**29/09/2009**

The European Commission decided to claim back a total of € 214.6 million of EU farm money unduly spent by Member States. In fact, the money will once again return to the Community budget because of non-compliance with EU rules or inadequate control procedures on agricultural expenditure. In conformity with the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), Member States are responsible for paying out and checking expenditure and the Commission is required to ensure that Member States have made correct use of the funds.

The EU farm money will be recovered from Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, Finland, France, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, **Malta**, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and Slovenia. Amongst the most significant individual corrections, France tops the list being charged with €48.1 and €22.9 (for financial years 2007 and 2006) for weaknesses in on-the-spot checks and incorrect application of sanctions in the area of cross-compliance. The European Commission requested that **Malta's** actual figure to return amounts to €16,690.38 that was rounded up to €20,000 because of the overshooting of financial ceilings.

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## Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

The Paying Agency within the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs (MRRRA) pointed out that this is not a case of a loss of EU funds but rather that Malta had requested to get reimbursement for an expenditure which was over and above what it was eligible for.

Mariann Fischer Boel, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development commented that the Commission is keeping up the pressure to ensure the best possible controls over how this money is spent. The Commission added that the system is working better than ever and they are striving to improve things further.

Further details can be viewed on the factsheet "Managing the agriculture budget wisely", available on the internet at: [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/fin/clearance/factsheet\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/fin/clearance/factsheet_en.pdf). [Click here](#) for more info

### EU Healthy Eating Campaign "The Tasty Bunch" – A new initiative to promote healthy lifestyle and balanced diet among kids – 28/09/2009

A new Healthy Eating Campaign for European School children was launched by Mariann Fischer Boel, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development. Under the slogan "Eat it, Drink it, Move it" there will be three roadshows which will tour seven European countries, giving children a chance to take part in educational activities and games. The European Commission also launched an interactive website, competitions and other events with one key goal in mind that of changing children's eating habits for the better.

The School Fruit and School Milk are definitely two steps in the right direction and with the healthy eating campaign, one is certainly delivering the message that "it's fun to be fit" and thus limit childhood obesity in Europe within the framework of the EU strategy on Nutrition, Physical Activity and Health. [Click here](#) for more info

## **Fisheries**

### EU concludes Fisheries Partnership Agreement with the Solomon Islands – 30/09/2009

The European Commission, on behalf of the EU, has initialled a new Fisheries Partnership Agreement with the Solomon Islands. This agreement replaces the current one between the two Parties, which entered into force in October 2006. The new agreement covers a period of 3 years and provides fishing possibilities exclusively for tuna for EU vessels fishing in the waters of the Solomon Islands.



## Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

The number of licences for tuna seiner vessels remains the same (4 licences). No fishing possibilities for long liners have been negotiated. However, the new protocol includes a clause which allows for the possibility to introduce new fishing possibilities, including for long liners, should the need arise. The annual reference tonnage is 4,000 tonnes of tuna species. 50% of the EU's annual financial contribution of € 400,000 has been earmarked for support to the Solomon Islands to enhance responsible and sustainable fishing in their waters. EU vessels interested in operating under this Agreement come from Spain and France.

The Agreement is in line with scientific advice regarding the state of the tuna stocks in the waters of Solomon Islands and provides for a number of control provisions which ensures sustainable fisheries under this Agreement. [Click here](#) for more info

### EU-Guinea fisheries agreement rejected – 01/10/2009

A draft EU-Guinea fisheries partnership agreement was rejected by a small majority in the Fisheries Committee on Thursday, after the Guinean government's use of force led to the deaths of over 100 civilians in Conakry on Monday. The deal would provide €450,000 a year in EU funding to develop Guinea's fisheries sector, and allow EU boats to fish in Guinean waters.

Under the consultation procedure, Parliament's position is not binding, but a rejection may delay the EU's compliance with its commitments. [Click here](#) for further info