



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

## AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES



**09.10.09**

### Agriculture and Rural Development

**COM (2009) 516** - Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council repealing Council Decision 79/542/EEC drawing up a list of third countries or parts of third countries, and laying down animal and public health and veterinary certification conditions, for importation into the Community of certain live animals and their fresh meat

This Draft Proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council repeals Council Decision 79/542/EEC of 21 December 1976 drawing up a list of third countries or parts of third countries, and laying down animal and public health and veterinary certification conditions, for importation into the Community of certain live animals and their fresh meat.

Decision 79/542/EEC establishes the veterinary conditions for the importation into the Community of certain live animals and the fresh meat of such animals and equidae, excluding meat preparations. Due to fundamental changes in the regulatory framework in this area, and for reasons of clarity and legal security, all the provisions of Decision 79/542/EEC have been laid down in the Commission Regulation of [...] (EC) No XX/2010 laying down lists of third countries, territories or parts thereof authorised for the introduction into the Community of certain animals and fresh meat and the veterinary certification requirements.

From the moment in which that Regulation will enter into force, Council Decision 79/542/EEC will be lapsed and no longer apply. For the sake of clarity and transparency of Community legislation, Decision 79/542/EEC should be explicitly repealed with effect from that date.

**Milk: High Level Group (HLG) to look at long-term future of dairy sector – 05/10/2009**

Commissioner Fischer Boel, for Agriculture and Rural Development informed agriculture ministers that a High Level Expert Group on Milk will begin working on the 13<sup>th</sup> October to discuss the medium and long term arrangements for the dairy sector given the expiry of milk

**Tel. 2200 3300 Fax 2122 7580 Email: [consult.meusac@gov.mt](mailto:consult.meusac@gov.mt)**



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quotas on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. The High Level Expert Group will study whether new arrangements should be put in place which can further contribute to stabilising the market and producers' incomes, reducing price volatility and enhancing market transparency.

In the meantime, the continuation of work to solve the short-term problems faced by our milk farmers is on-going. Commissioner Fischer Boel said that they will authorise Member States to pay farmers up to €15,000 in a national aid in the coming days and she hopes that in two weeks time the Council will formally agree to their proposal to extend the safety-net arrangements. The HLG on milk will be chaired by the Commission's Director-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, Jean-Luc Demarty, and will be composed of Member State representatives. The Commission intends to invite experts and stakeholders when appropriate to assist the HLG in its work. It will meet once a month as a general rule and will deliver a report on a regular basis. It is invited to discuss the following items, although this list is not necessarily exhaustive:

- Contractual relations between milk producers and dairies to better balance supply and demand on the dairy market
- What can be done to strengthen the bargaining power of milk producers?
- Are the existing market instruments appropriate?
- Transparency and information to consumers, quality, health and labelling issues
- Innovation and research with a view to making the sector more competitive
- A possible future market in dairy

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### Commission adopts latest proposals to support dairy farmers – 09/10/2009

The European Commission proposed two changes to the rules governing the dairy sector as part of its continuing efforts to stabilise the milk market. Firstly, and as announced last month by the Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, it is proposed that the dairy sector should in future be covered by a disturbance clause which already exists for other farm sectors, to allow a quicker response to future market disturbances. Secondly, for the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 quota years, changes to the operation of quota buying-up schemes by Member States will ensure that bought up quota which is kept in the national reserve should no longer count as part of the national quota when it comes to deciding whether super levy is due for exceeding the quota. If super levy is then collected, the part corresponding to the bought-up quota can be used by Member States for restructuring of the sector. These proposals will be discussed by EU agriculture ministers on 19 October.

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### Fisheries

**COM (2009) 517** - Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the fishing opportunities and the conditions relating thereto for certain fish stocks applicable in the Black Sea for 2010

The European Commission adopted a proposal for fishing opportunities for the Black Sea for 2010. Following the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the EU on 1 January 2007 and in continuation of the conservation measures already implemented in 2008 and 2009 the objective of this proposal is to fix, for the commercially most important fish stocks in the Black Sea, fishing opportunities and associated conditions thereto for Member States for 2010.

The Commission proposes a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 76 tonnes for turbot, a 25% reduction compared to 2009, and a TAC of 12,750 tonnes for sprat would be equally divided between Bulgaria and Romania, unchanged from 2009. The minimum mesh size permitted in this fishery has now been set at 400 mm and the phasing-out period that allowed the use of smaller nets to give the fleet time to adjust has now expired. The fishing season for turbot shall be closed from 15 April to 15 June, and the minimum landing size for turbot remains unchanged at 45 cm. The Commission also promotes bilateral cooperation in fisheries management with third countries bordering the Black Sea, as well as through the appropriate Regional Fisheries Organisation, namely the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, which also covers the Black Sea.

These proposals are based on advice from two working groups of leading fisheries scientists from the Black Sea Region, and from the Commission's own Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee on Fisheries (STECF) which has reviewed the working groups' reports.

### **Commissioner Borg receives prestigious Mann Borgese maritime award – 06/10/2009**

In Kiel, the capital of Schleswig-Holstein in northern Germany, EU Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Joe Borg, received the Elisabeth Mann Borgese award from the Government of Schleswig-Holstein for outstanding achievements for the seas. This prize is awarded every year in recognition of figures whose work has contributed to protecting and preserving the oceans and seas. Commissioner Borg gets the prize for his efforts to contribute to the creation of an Integrated Maritime Policy for the EU. During his visit in Germany, the Commissioner will also participate in the launch of the Skysails pilot project in Hamburg – the first of its kind to test the installation of a wind propulsion system on board a fishing vessel.