



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES



18.12.09

Council Conclusions

AGRIFISH Council Meeting – Main Results

14/15 December

- The Council reached political agreement on the total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas for 2010.
- The Council took note of the presentation by the Commission of its report on options for animal welfare labelling and the establishment of a European Network of Reference Centres for the protection and welfare of animals.
- The Council took note of the state of play of the negotiation with the European Parliament, under the co-decision procedure, on a regulation concerning the protection of animals used for scientific purposes.
- The Council held a policy debate on the future of the CAP focusing on [rural development](#). In its introductory words, the Commission representative highlighted that strengthening competitiveness, protecting the environment and creating new jobs are the three most important challenges when considering the future of rural development. Moreover, it is too early to mention any figures and invited Member States to reflect on several issues that most delegates touched upon, such as the criteria to be defined for the distribution of money intending to replace historical grounds. The Swedish Presidency concluded that there is a need to keep rural development as part of the common policy, in order to face several important challenges such as sustainable development, climate change, water management, and biodiversity.
- The Council took note of the views expressed by ministers on the Simplification of the Common agricultural policy (CAP). Several member states have expressed satisfaction

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on the outcome of the Commission's assessment of the [39 concrete simplification suggestions](#) submitted by 16 Member States and have in particular welcomed the Commission's commitment to prepare in the coming months a number of draft acts and proposals to follow up on a number of suggestions made, including alternative solutions. Others, however, pointed out that the Commission's assessment did not lead to a positive follow-up on a number of suggestions made and would like to see those suggestions being reviewed through a political process. Moreover, several delegations have indicated areas where they see scope for further simplification, and have asked the Commission in particular to take a more proportionate and risk-based approach to carrying out controls, conducting compliance audits and imposing financial corrections.

- The Council took note of a [quarterly report](#) of the situation on the dairy market.

[Click here](#) to view the Council Conclusions in further detail

Agriculture and Rural Development

[Vote on the latest modifications of rural development programmes to address new challenges – 16/12/2009](#)

The Rural Development Committee has voted on a third wave of proposals from Member States/regions for using EU Recovery Plan, CAP Health Check funding and other transfers within the CAP to address issues including the economic and dairy crisis and climate change. This closes a very intensive cycle of negotiations between the Commission and Member States and gives the green light for the rapid injection of an additional amount of about €4.6 billion into the economy of rural areas and agriculture in 2009. [Click here](#) for more info

[Negotiations between the EU and Morocco in the agri-food and fisheries sector: signature of agreed minutes – 17/12/2009](#)

The Moroccan and EU negotiators signed an agreed minute concluding negotiations that have been ongoing for almost four years in view of a future agreement on improving bilateral trade conditions for products from the agri-food and fisheries sector. The conclusion of the negotiations is subject to the approval of the respective authorities. In particular, the agreement will reinforce the position of European exporters on the Moroccan market, particularly exporters of processed agricultural products, representing a major offensive interest for the EU with full liberalisation planned in stages over the next ten years, with the exception of pasta, for which a quantitative restriction is provided. In the agricultural products sector, the agreement will allow for the immediate liberalisation of 45% of the value of EU



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exports and 70% in ten years. The tinned food, dairy products, oilseeds and fruit and vegetable sector will benefit fully from total liberalisation. The fisheries sector will also be opened up for EU products (91% after five years and 100% in 10 years). [Click here](#) to view more info

Monitoring Agri-trade Policy (MAP) - 17/12/2009

MAP Newsletter is a quarterly publication which provides in-depth analyses on relevant agricultural trade and agri-trade policy issues. This publication features the new Commission analysis looks at the role of Ukraine in world agriculture.

Ukraine is one of the rising stars of Eastern Europe. Its key geographical position and fertile soils give it huge agricultural potential which has yet to be fully realised. Although agricultural output has still not recovered from its collapse after independence, Ukraine is still a net exporter of agricultural products and is a leading global grains and sunflower oil exporter. However Ukraine's capacity to achieve its full export potential has been hindered by restrictions on exports, aimed at controlling inflation.

The latest MAP (Monitoring Agri-trade Policy) published by the Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development looks at Ukraine's trade patterns globally and with the EU. Its accession to WTO in 2008 has increased trading opportunities for the EU and others. The EU has replaced Russia as Ukraine's main agricultural trading partner for both imports and exports. Ukraine is a growing market for the EU particularly for exports of final products and this looks set to continue with the launch of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations in 2008.

[Click here](#) to view the newsletter

Expert group for technical advice on organic production: Commission publishes call for applications - 18/12/2009

The [European Action plan for organic food and farming](#) foresees the setting-up of a group of experts for technical advice. The expert group will ensure an easy access to highly qualified technical expertise in a wide range of fields related to organic production.

With a view to select the relevant experts, a call for applications has been published today in the [Official Journal C 308](#), page 22. Applications must be submitted not later than Friday 12 February 2010.

[Click here](#) for more info



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Other matters

Climate change could reduce by 10% agricultural production in Europe – 11/12/2009

After the recent release of the [final report](#) of the PESETA project on the impact of climate change in Europe, the JRC's Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS) is launching a series of monographic reports with more information on each of the sector specific studies of the project. The first such report, "Impacts of climate change in agriculture in Europe" has been published today. If the climate expected in the 2080s occurred today, European agriculture could face an annual decrease of up to 10% in crop yields, which would translate into yearly additional GDP losses of 0.32%.

All climate scenarios studied (with temperature increases in a range between 2.5°C and 5.4°C) would entail crop productivity decreases in Southern Europe caused by shortening of the growing period, with subsequent negative effects on grain filling. On the other hand, the study predicts an increase in the agricultural production in Northern Europe due to lengthened growing season, decreasing cold effects on growth, and extension of the frost-free period. It is important to notice that the simulations considered no restrictions in water availability for irrigation or in the use of nitrogen fertilizer. However, farm-level adaptation measures such as change of crops or crop management have been taken into account.

The [PESETA project](#), financed by the JRC, has been coordinated by IPTS, while the JRC's Institute for the Environment and Sustainability (IES) has contributed the river floods impact assessment. [Click here](#) to view reference

More agricultural product names registered - 15/12/2009

The European Commission has added two names of agricultural products and foodstuffs to the Register of Protected Designations of Origin (PDO) and Protected Geographical Indications (PGI):

- "Crudo di Cuneo" (ham - PDO - Italy)
- "Wiśnia nadwiślanka" (cherries - PDO - Poland)

The two names are added to the list of about 850 product names already protected under the legislation on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin and traditional speciality. [Click here](#) to view to reference