



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

## AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES



26.06.09

### Council Conclusions

22/23 June

Council adopts new rules for the placing on the market of animal feed

The Council today adopted a regulation on the placing on the market and use of feed, following a first-reading agreement with the European Parliament. The main objective of the new regulation is to boost innovation within the feed industry and to strengthen the competitiveness of the EU livestock sector while maintaining a high level of protection for animals and European citizens. [Click here](#) to view the provisions included in this new regulation.

The Council adopted conclusions on areas with natural handicaps and on the quality of agricultural products.

The Council reached political agreement on a proposed regulation on the welfare of animals at the time of slaughter or killing.

The Council had a policy debate on the reform of the fisheries control policy.

[Click here](#) for further information

### Agriculture and Rural Development

COM (2009) 299 Proposal for a COUNCIL DIRECTIVE .../.../EC on the marketing of seed potatoes

In the context of a people's Europe, the Commission attaches great importance to simplifying and clarifying Community law so as to make it clearer and more accessible to the ordinary citizen, thus giving him new opportunities and the chance to make use of the specific rights it gives him. This aim cannot be achieved so long as numerous provisions that have been amended several times, often quite substantially, remain scattered, so that they must be



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sought partly in the original instrument and partly in later amending ones. Considerable research work, comparing many different instruments, is thus needed to identify the current rules. For this reason a codification of rules that have frequently been amended is also essential if Community law is to be clear and transparent.

On 1 April 1987 the Commission therefore decided to instruct its staff that all legislative acts should be codified after no more than ten amendments, stressing that this is a minimum requirement and that departments should endeavour to codify at even shorter intervals the texts for which they are responsible, to ensure that the Community rules are clear and readily understandable.

The Conclusions of the Presidency of the Edinburgh European Council (December 1992) confirmed this, stressing the importance of codification as it offers certainty as to the law applicable to a given matter at a given time. Codification must be undertaken in full compliance with the normal Community legislative procedure. Given that no changes of substance may be made to the instruments affected by codification, the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission have agreed, by an interinstitutional agreement dated 20 December 1994, that an accelerated procedure may be used for the fast-track adoption of codification instruments.

The purpose of this proposal is to undertake a codification of Council Directive 2002/56/EC of 13 June 2002 on the marketing of seed potatoes. The new Directive will supersede the various acts incorporated in it; this proposal fully preserves the content of the acts being codified and hence does no more than bringing them together with only such formal amendments as are required by the codification exercise itself.

The codification proposal was drawn up on the basis of a preliminary consolidation, in all official languages, of Directive 2002/56/EC and the instruments amending it, carried out by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, by means of a data-processing system.

### Other news

**Deadline for entries for EU-wide Organic logo competition pushed back to 6 July 2009 – 18/06/2009**

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development is putting out its final call for the EU-wide Organic logo competition. Design students from the 27 EU Member States are invited to enter their designs to the competition with the chance of winning great cash prizes and a claim to fame as the creators of the new official EU organic logo for organic products. The final deadline for registrations will now be 6 July 2009. [Click here](#) for more info



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### Agreement to allow early payments of direct aid to farmers - 18/06/2009

The Management Committee for Direct Payments yesterday gave a positive opinion to a Commission proposal to allow direct aid payments to farmers under the Single Payment Scheme and the Single Area Payment Scheme to be advanced to the 16th October 2009.

This follows an undertaking by Agriculture Commissioner Mariann Fischer Boel at the last Agriculture Council to allow earlier payments to help farmers, notably milk producers, who face cash flow problems because of low prices. The measure will be formally adopted in the next few weeks.

Member States may pay up to 70 percent of the annual payment from 16 October. Payments are normally only possible from 1 December each year. [Click here](#) for more info

### CAP: Commission launches a call for tender for a study: "Implications of asynchronous GMO approvals for imports of animal feed" - 26/06/2009

The aim of this study is to analyse the trade impacts of differences in the pace of GMO authorisations between the EU and trading partners (asynchronous authorisation). The study shall provide a better understanding of possible effects on feed availability in the EU and corresponding cost implications for animal production. In this context, substitution possibilities and potential links between feed and food availability must be taken into account. The economic assessment shall cover the effects of asynchronous GM authorisation on the competitiveness of EU agriculture.

The maximum budget attributed to this project is EUR 400 000. The deadline for submitting offers expires on 11 September 2009.

The Commission intends to award the contract by the end of 2009, following the evaluation of the offers received. The contractor will have to carry out the study within 10 months from the signature of the contract. [Click here](#) for more details

## Fisheries

### Fisheries: Simplification of fisheries rule is a success – and must continue! – 24/06/2009

The Commission presented to Council its Communication on the implementation of the 2006-08 Action Plan for simplifying and improving the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). This report [\[COM \(2009\) 261\]](#) summarises the progress made during this period, and outlines how the Commission intends to continue working towards better and simpler fisheries legislation in



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future. The results achieved so far are encouraging: all the initiatives laid down in the 2006-2008 Action Plan were completed. Fisheries legislation has become clearer, and its implementation costs both for administrations and for operators have been reduced. The report also highlights the use of impact assessments as a valuable tool for fine-tuning new legislation in advance. [Click here](#) for more info

### Commission welcomes positive Fisheries Council Conclusion – 24/06/2009

The European Commission welcomes the results of the Fisheries Council meeting in Luxembourg, at which Council conclusions on sustainable development of EU aquaculture were adopted. Council's support for the Commission's strategy will provide new political impetus for the sustainable development of the sector.

Also under discussion was the proposed new control framework for the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), on which Council held an in-depth political debate. This has helped the Commission to better understand the different positions among the Member States on some of the more sensitive elements of the proposal, including the harmonisation of sanctions, the allocation of powers between the different actors involved, including the Commission and the Control Agency and the cost-effectiveness and administrative burden involved in adopting new on-board technologies. The Commission identified a number of points where it is happy to move in the direction of Member States' requests, including the need for a special regime for the small-scale fleet below 12 metres.

Ministers also discussed the Commission's consultation paper on fishing opportunities for 2010. Despite some good news, such as Baltic cod, the state of EU fish stocks continues to be dire, and TACs continue to be set well above the level which scientists consider sustainable. The underlying drivers for this will have to be addressed in the context of the next Reform of the CFP. In the meantime, the Commission will continue to follow the rules it has developed and refined over recent years. Measures to reduce discards remain high on the Commission's agenda.

The Commission also presented a summary of its work over the last three years to simplify the CFP, including the repealing of a number of obsolete legal acts, and the recasting of the Commission Regulation on the Common Market Organisation in fisheries and aquaculture products.

Finally, Commissioner Joe Borg updated Council on the 2009 fishing season for bluefin tuna and commended Member States on their positive action so far to ensure that the recovery plan is implemented. He welcomed the steps already taken by Member States to reduce overcapacity



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in the tuna fleet, and urged them to take further measures by 2010 as required by the recovery plan. The Commission and the Community Fisheries Control Agency will continue to implement the 2009 specific control and inspection programme, to ensure that there is no overfishing this year.