



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES



29.05.09

Agriculture and Rural Development

COM (2009) 246 - Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the non-inclusion of paraffin oils CAS 64742-46-7, CAS 72623-86-0 and CAS 97862-82-3 in Annex I to Council Directive 91/414/EEC and the withdrawal of authorisations for plant protection products containing those substances

COM (2009) 245 - Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the non-inclusion of paraffin oil CAS 8042-47-5 in Annex I to Council Directive 91/414/EEC and the withdrawal of authorisations for plant protection products containing that substance

COM (2009) 244 - Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the non-inclusion of triazoxide in Annex I to Council Directive 91/414/EEC and the withdrawal of authorisations for plant protection products containing that substance

COM (2009) 243 - Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the non-inclusion of metam in Annex I to Council Directive 91/414/EEC and the withdrawal of authorisations for plant protection products containing that substance

COM (2009) 241 - Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the non-inclusion of bifenthrin in Annex I to Council Directive 91/414/EEC and the withdrawal of authorisations for plant protection products containing that substance

COM (2009) 240 - Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the non-inclusion of diphenylamine in Annex I to Council Directive 91/414/EEC and the withdrawal of authorisations for plant protection products containing that substance



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

Council Directive 91/414/EEC creates a harmonised framework for the authorisation and placing on the market of plant protection products¹. Active substances to be used as plant protection products are assessed and authorised at Community level and are listed in Annex I to the Directive. Individual plant protection products containing active substances are assessed and authorised by Member States under harmonised rules.

Article 5 of the Directive provides for a listing of active substances in Annex I to the Directive when, in the light of the current scientific and technical knowledge, it is demonstrated that they satisfy, in principle, the safety requirements for human health and the environment.

During the evaluation of these active substances, a number of concerns have been identified. In particular, the existing evidence is not sufficient to demonstrate a safe use with respect to operators, workers, bystanders and consumers. Thus, the Commission is proposing that the Council adopts the above Decisions stipulating that the various substances dealt in each proposal (each proposal referring to a particular substance) be excluded from the positive list (Annex I) of the Directive, and the withdrawal of authorisations for plant protection products containing those substances. These proposals stipulate that Member States shall ensure that:

- (a) Authorisations for plant protection products containing the specific active substances are withdrawn by 6 months from the date of adoption of the decisions.
- (b) No authorisations for plant protection products containing the specified substances are granted or renewed from the date of publication of these Decisions.

[COM \(2009\) 242](#) - Proposal for a Council Directive amending Council Directive 91/414/EEC to include tetraconazole as active substance

In this case the draft proposal concerns the *inclusion* of tetraconazole as active substance in the positive list (Annex I) of Council Directive 91/414/EEC.

The results of the various examinations made indicate that plant protection products containing tetraconazole may be expected to satisfy, in general, the requirements laid down in Article 5(1) (a) and (b) of Directive 91/414/EEC, in particular with regard to the uses which have been

¹ Plant protection products are defined by the Directive as active substances and preparations containing one or more active substances, put up in the form in which they are supplied to the user, intended to:

1. protect plants or plant products against all harmful organisms or prevent the action of such organisms, in so far as such substances or preparations are not otherwise defined below;
2. influence the life processes of plants, other than as a nutrient, (e.g. growth regulators);
3. preserve plant products, in so far as such substances or products are not subject to special Council of Commission provisions on preservatives;
4. destroy undesired plants; or
5. destroy parts of plants, check or prevent undesired growth of plants.



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

examined and detailed in the Commission review report. The Commission thus deems it appropriate to include tetraconazole in Annex I, in order to ensure that in all Member States the authorisations of plant protection products containing this active substance can be granted in accordance with the provisions of that Directive.

COM (2009) 231 REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS SAPARD ANNUAL REPORT – YEAR 2007

Beginning in 2000, the EU reinforced its pre-accession assistance for the rural development of ten candidate countries of Central and Eastern Europe by creating Sapard, the Special Accession Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development.

The above mentioned Report covers both 2006 and 2007, the completion of the programmes of the eight new Member States² and problems encountered with the implementation of Sapard in Bulgaria and Romania which started in 2007. Implementation in Bulgaria and Romania will be further dealt within the Sapard annual report 2008, which is under preparation. For Cyprus and Malta the Council had decided on a specific financial pre-accession programme.

The Report also features the overall results of implementation under Sapard, the assessment of achievement of objectives, programme implementation and management and activities in relation to conferral of management, audits and controls. As regards the future development, the reform of the external aid policies proposed by the Commission in the Financial Perspective 2007-2013 resulted in the elaboration of the new single Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) replacing the five former instruments PHARE, ISPA, Sapard, CARDS and the Turkey (TR) pre-accession assistance.

Moreover, IPA supports the candidate countries in 5 areas, one of them being the rural development area. The IPA Rural Development component (IPARD) helps the countries to prepare for implementation of the *acquis communautaire* of the CAP and to align to EU structures, through the provision of financial assistance under multi-annual rural development programmes, provided that the candidate countries have set up the required institutions and management capacity.

Furthermore, the EC has increasingly developed cooperation with International Financing Institutions (IFIs) in the field of pre-accession assistance to rural development in recent years. These activities continue under the IPA rural development component.

² Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

Food and drink: Commission proposes actions to get the most out of marketing and quality schemes – 28/05/2009

The Commission strongly believes that the EU farmers must build on high quality reputation to sustain competitiveness and profitability. Hence, the Commission proposes actions which are needed to improve communication about the qualities of agricultural products — to help reconnect farmers with consumers if they want to retain fair share of the value added. Quality labelling schemes must also be easier for people to use and understand; giving the opportunity to consumers to make informed choices and EU policy must be more coherent. These are the main recommendations of a European Commission Communication on agricultural product quality policy.

EU farmers meet some of the most stringent farming requirements in the world regarding environmental protection, animal welfare and the use of pesticides and veterinary drugs. In addition, they use their expertise and skill to give their products individual qualities that add value. This proposal is further addressing the questions whether farmers get a fair return for their efforts and if the consumers get accurate information about product characteristics and farming attributes.

In the Communication [\[COM \(2009\) 234\]](#) the Commission proposes in particular to:

- Extend labelling that identifies the place where agricultural product was farmed;
- Examine the feasibility of laying down specific optional reserved terms for 'product of mountain farming' and 'traditional product'. The latter could replace the current 'traditional specialities guaranteed' scheme.
- Create a unique register for all geographical indications (for wines, spirits and agricultural products and foodstuffs) while preserving the specificities of each system.
- Improve the single market for products under labelling schemes, particularly for organic products.
- Improve international protection of geographical indications and contribute to the development of international standards for marketing standards and organic product.
- Develop 'good practice' guidelines for private certification schemes to reduce potential for consumer confusion and to reduce red-tape for farmers.

The Communication considers all EU quality policies at the same time: marketing standards, geographical indications, traditional specialties guaranteed, organic farming, and certification schemes. Furthermore, this Communication is building on the consultation on the Green Paper where it takes stock of all the contributions to the consultation and lays down strategic orientations for improving the flow of information between farmers and consumers about



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

where and how farm products have been produced. This Communication does not entail any changes to the rules, but will pave the way for regulatory proposals in 2010.

COM (2009) 237 REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL on the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 814/2000 on information measures relating to the common agricultural policy

This report concerns the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 814/2000 for the period 2007–2008. This report deals with several issues such as; the budget, breakdown of actions financed in terms of commitments credits, the proportion of spending (commitments and payments) between grants at the initiative of third parties and communication campaigns on major issues.

The objectives of the information measures on the CAP as defined by Regulation (EC) No 814/2000 are:

- helping to explain the CAP as well as to implement and develop it,
- promoting the European Model of Agriculture and helping people understand it,
- providing information for farmers and others living in rural areas,
- raising public awareness of the issues and objectives of the CAP.

Actions fall into two main categories:

- those submitted by third party organisations for co-financing by EAGF which may be annual work programmes and specific measures (grants),
- those at the initiative of the Commission and financed at a rate of 100% by EAGF ("direct actions").

In the 2007-2008 period, efforts were intensified to increase the understanding and acceptance of the CAP among the general public, and also to maintain and increase support from stakeholders in agriculture and the rural areas. Increased attention was paid to the local context in designing information measures. Strategic messages were improved and refined.

Synergy was increased with the governmental and non-governmental sector, and also between different communication tools. Actions aimed at newer and younger audiences were developed, using the WEB and audiovisual tools. There was a renewed focus on better dissemination of information both for co-financed actions and measures taken at the initiative of the Commission. Key policy developments were accompanied by major information campaigns in the capitals, with high-level briefings of media and stakeholders providing an opportunity for open and frank dialogue on the policy. Overall, this contributed to improving the understanding of both rural area stakeholders and the general public concerning the



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

benefits of the CAP and the role of Rural Development, in line with the objectives of Regulation (EC) No 814/2000.

Three agricultural product names registered - 25/05/2009

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): French products "Kiwi de l'Adour" (fruit - PGI) and "Petit Épeautre de Haute Provence" (cereal – PGI) and Czech "Mariánskolázeňské oplatky" (waffle - PGI). These three names are added to the list of about 820 product names already protected under the legislation on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin and traditional speciality. [Click here](#) for more information.

Olive oil: Commission to activate private storage aid to support market – 25/05/2009

The European Commission is proposing to allow olive oil producers to tender for aid for the private storage of extra virgin and virgin olive oils for a period of 180 days and a maximum quantity of 110,000 tonnes. This is because of a significant and prolonged decrease in prices in the EU. Olive oil prices have been consistently decreasing in the EU since the beginning of the 2008/09 marketing year. On several major representative markets, the level of olive oil prices, specifically for extra virgin and virgin qualities, have over recent weeks remained below the trigger levels foreseen for private storage aid (1779 €/t for extra virgin olive oil and 1710 €/t for virgin olive oil).

Depending on the harvest forecast for next year's harvest (2009/10), that will be available later in 2009, the Commission has the possibility to extend the measure. The tender will be opened as soon as possible during the month of June and the periods of subsidised private storage of olive oil could start during the months of June and July. [Click here](#) for more information.

Commission launches call for tender for project: "Ex-post evaluation of LEADER+" - 25/05/2009

The purpose of this evaluation is to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance and sustainability of LEADER+ programmes and LEADER+ type measures as implemented respectively in the EU-15 and EU-10.

- Concerning LEADER+ programmes, the evaluation should assess the impacts achieved by the programmes and their coherence with other EU interventions in rural areas.
- Regarding LEADER+ type measures, the analysis will focus on their effectiveness in preparing the New Member States in the development of area-based and bottom-up



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

rural development strategies, as well as on their relevance in relation to the needs of the New Member States.

The Commission intends to award the contract during the last quarter of the year 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 information.

Fisheries

Fisheries Ministers held a fruitful meeting on the future of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and on the phasing out of discards – 25/05/2009

Ministers for Fisheries meeting in Council in Brussels have extended their support to the Commission's plans for reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. Joe Borg, Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime affairs, welcomed the open discussion held in the Council on the support towards the reform of the CFP and also welcomed the opportunity to discuss with Fisheries Ministers a new approach to the phasing out of discards.

Moreover, Ministers clearly accepted to further stimulate the debate with direct and indirect stakeholders in their country as well as with the public in general. The Green paper launches a period of consultation on CFP reform which lasts until 31 December 2009, which is open to each and every EU citizen and which covers every aspect of the current policy. The Commission is looking forward to receiving, what promises to be, a vast array of views on the reform.

Commissioner Borg also presented to the Council a new approach to the phasing out of discards. The practice of discarding marine organisms, including marketable fish, is one of the biggest problems facing European fisheries. This practice is unacceptable and there is an undisputed need to eradicate it. In order to resolve this problem, it will focus in the short term on the most pressing issues and address regulated and other major commercial species. The Commissioner presented these mix of measures to the Council of Ministers which will be reflected in upcoming proposals of the Commission starting already in 2009. Several measures which can be taken in the short term are: banning highgrading, licensing vessels according to likely catches, improving the selectivity of fishing gear, using new instruments such as real-time closures, carrying out pilot projects and reducing the overall fishing effort can be applied today, under the current CFP rules. Such measures will in the very short term significantly help reduce the negative impact of discarding. Additional far-reaching measures to eliminate discards are currently under preparation and will be proposed in the next fishing year 2010. [Click here](#) for more information.



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

Council Conclusions

25/05/2009

- The Council adopted conclusions on the simplification of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).
- The Council had an exchange of views on the future Common Fisheries Policy reform.

MEUSAC's Core Group Meeting

29/05/2009

Commissioner for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, Joe Borg was present for this month's Core Group meeting. During the meeting, the Commissioner spoke on his role and stated that these last five years, one of the most important initiatives in relation to Fisheries was that of involving a wide variety of stakeholders in the process of decision making. He also commented on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) which was communicated earlier on this year initiating a consultation process ending in December 2009. Members of the Core Group came up with several points of discussion such as; what impact would the accession of Iceland in the EU have on the CFP; on what criteria is the bluefin tuna quota calculated; as well as how would the CFP be integrated with third countries; clarification on the possible penalties and their impact on the society, especially in light of the fact that in Malta there are several families that depend on the fisheries sector; and finally the question of surveillance. Further information regarding the Core Group meeting with particular reference to Fisheries, will be included in next week's update.