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## PRESS RELEASE

Extraordinary Council meeting

### Agriculture and Fisheries

Brussels, 5 September 2014

President **Maurizio MARTINA**  
Minister for Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policy

# P R E S S

## **Main results of the Council**

### ***Russian ban on EU products***

*Ministers debated today the impact and implications of the Russian ban on imports of EU agricultural products in place since 6 August this year.*

*Emergency market measures on fruit and vegetables and milk sector have already been decided by the Commission. Most of the member states recognised the opportunity of this support, while many called for enlarging the scope of these measures and diversifying the tools used. Well targeted compensation measures for certain of the most affected producers could be envisaged. Furthermore, the debate in the Council focused on medium and long term measures such as seeking new markets for EU products.*

*The Italian Minister for Agricultural, Food and Forestry and president of the Council, Maurizio Martina said: "During this extraordinary meeting, ministers have confirmed the need for a coordinated, unanimous reply and with solidarity at EU level to tackle the negative effects linked to the Russian ban on EU agricultural products. A positive evaluation of the measures taken by the Commission has been confirmed, although we have stressed the need to continuously monitor the market evolution and to prepare every further and concrete tool for intervention towards the producers which have been penalised by the ban. Due to the fact that the crisis originated from independent reasons not linked to the agricultural markets, but from the political situation, there was unanimous consensus on the need to put in place resources additional to those agreed under the agricultural budget, so that farmers are not further penalized".*

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<sup>1</sup>

- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
- Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's Internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
- Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's Internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

**PARTICIPANTS**

**Belgium:**

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Minister for the Middle Classes, SMEs, the Self-Employed and Agriculture  
Flemish Minister for the Environment, Nature and Culture  
Minister for Agriculture, Rural Affairs, Nature, Tourism and sports

Ms Joke SCHAUVLIEGE  
Mr René COLLIN

**Bulgaria:**

Mr Vassil GROUDEV

Minister for Agriculture and Food

**Czech Republic:**

Mr Marian JUREČKA

Minister for Agriculture

**Denmark:**

Mr Dan JØRGENSEN

Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries

**Germany:**

Mr Christian SCHMIDT

Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture

**Estonia:**

Mr Ivari PADAR

Minister for Agriculture

**Ireland:**

Mr Simon COVENEY

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine

**Greece:**

Mr Georgios KARASMANIS

Minister of Rural Development and Food

**Spain:**

Ms Isabel GARCÍA TEJERINA

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Environment

**France:**

Mr Stéphane LE FOLL

Minister for Agriculture, Food Industry and Forestry

**Croatia:**

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Minister for Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policy

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**Luxembourg:**

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**Malta:**

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Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights within the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change

**Netherlands:**

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Minister for Agriculture

**Austria:**

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Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, the Environment and Water Management

**Poland:**

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Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development

**Portugal:**

Ms Assunção CRISTAS

Minister for Agriculture and Maritime Affairs

**Romania:**

Mr Dumitru Daniel BOTĂNOIU

State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

**Slovenia:**

Mr Dejan ŽIDAN

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Agriculture and Environment

**Slovakia:**

Mr Ľubomír JAHNÁTEK

Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development

**Finland:**

Mr Petteri ORPO

Minister for Agriculture and Forestry

**Sweden:**

Mr Magnus KINDBOM

State Secretary, Ministry of Rural Affairs

**United Kingdom:**

Ms Elizabeth TRUSS

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Ms Michelle O' NEILL

Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development

Mr Richard LOCHHEAD

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment

Ms Rebecca EVANS

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

**Commission:**

Mr Dacian CIOLOȘ

Member

**ITEMS DEBATED**

**Russian ban on EU products**

Ministers debated today the impact and implications of the Russian ban on imports of EU agricultural products in place since early August this year.

The Council confirmed the need on a EU wide and joint response to tackle the negative effects linked to the Russian ban on the EU agriculture products.

Most of the member states recognised the opportunity of the emergency market support measures decided by the Commission on fruit and vegetables and on the milk sector. However, many called on to do more by enlarging the scope of these measures and by diversifying the tools used. Ministers agreed that in this context, the evolution of the affected sectors should be monitored continuously in light of further interventions on these markets. In addition, well targeted compensation measures for certain of the most affected producers could be envisaged.

As this crisis is due to reasons not directly linked to the agricultural markets there was a large agreement between member states on the need to look for resources additional to those agreed under the agricultural budget.

The debate in the Council focused also on medium and long term measures. Many delegations supported the increase of the promotion budget proposed by the Commission in the context of seeking new exportation markets for EU products. Several member states were in favour of the reinforcement of the existing schemes to distribute fruit and vegetable and milk in school. The distribution of food products to the most deprived persons was also an option discussed in the Council.

Some delegations mentioned also that Russia's import ban has also repercussions on fisheries, in particular on the pelagic industries. The Commission indicated that it works on how to best react to the temporary unavailability of this market.

**Background**

By Decree of its President dated 6 August 2014 № 560 "On the application of certain special economic measures to ensure the security of the Russian Federation", the Russian Federation banned for imports, for a period of one year, a number of agricultural products, raw materials and foodstuffs originating from the United States, countries of the European Union, Canada, Australia and the Kingdom of Norway, as a countermeasure to sanction imposed on Russia because of the situation in Ukraine. The list of banned products was slightly modified on 20 August. It includes meat, fish and crustaceans, milk and dairy products, fruit and vegetables, sausages and food or finished products.

On 15 August 2014, an extraordinary session of the Foreign Affairs Council dealt with the situation in Ukraine and regretted the Russian Federation's announcement of measures targeting imports of certain agricultural products originating in the EU. It also confirmed this extraordinary meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council to assess the impact of these measures and the appropriate response.

Since the implementation of the ban, the Commission convened different meetings of the Management Committee to discuss the market situation for products affected by the Russian ban. In the light of those discussions, the Commission decided on 18 August to trigger Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) emergency measures to reduce the overall supply of a number of perishable fruit and vegetables products on the European market (market withdrawals, compensation for non-harvesting and green harvesting). These measures will apply until the end of November with a budget foreseen of €125 million (the products concerned are the following: tomatoes, carrots, white cabbage, peppers, cauliflowers, cucumbers, and gherkins, mushrooms, apples, pear, red fruits, table grapes and kiwis). Emergency support measures for peaches and nectarines had already been announced on 11 August (€29.7 million for withdrawals and €3 million for promotion). Emergency market support measures for certain dairy products have also been decided.

**OTHER ITEMS APPROVED**

**DECISIONS TAKEN BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE**

**Energy**

On 30 July 2014, the Council established the EU position with a view to the Ministerial Council of the [Energy Community](#) to take place in Kiev, Ukraine, on 23 September 2014.

**Public access to Council documents**

On 28 July 2014, the Council approved the replies to the following confirmatory applications:

- 17/c/01/14: Denmark, Estonia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Finland and Sweden voted against the draft reply and made statements ([11045/14](#)). Hungary voted in favour and made a statement ([11045/14](#)). Italy abstained from voting.
- 19/c/01/14, 20/c/02/14, 21/c/01/14, 22/c/02/14, 23/c/03/14, 24/c/01/14 and 25/c/02/14: all delegations voted in favour of the draft replies ([11386/14](#), [11410/14](#), [11544/14](#), [11549/14](#), [11563/14](#), [11629/14](#) and [11657/14](#), respectively).

**Appointments: European Economic and Social Committee - Committee of the Regions**

On 30 July 2014, the Council appointed Mr Raymond COUMONT (Belgium) ([11832/14](#)) and Mr Peter SCHMIDT (Germany) ([11837/14](#)) as members of the European Economic and Social Committee for the remainder of the current term of office, which runs until 20 September 2015.

On 30 July 2014, the Council appointed Mr Karl-Heinz LAMBERTZ (Belgium) ([11884/14](#));

Mr Valter FLEGO and Mr Željko TURK (Croatia) ([11900/14](#)); Mr Jess V. LAURSEN (Denmark) ([11918/14](#)); Ms Maria BYRNE, Mr Eamon DOOLEY, Ms Mary FREEHILL and Mr Neale RICHMOND (Ireland) ([11988/14](#)) and Mr Ignazio MARINO, Ms Micaela FANELLI and Mr Roberto PELLA (Italy) ([11991/14](#)), as members of the Committee of the Regions for the remainder of the current term of office, which runs until 25 January 2015.