



CROATIAN PARLIAMENT

**European Affairs Committee
Agriculture Committee**

Zagreb, 1 April 2014

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Opinion of the European Affairs Committee and the Agriculture Committee

**on the Proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and
Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 as regards the aid scheme for the supply of fruit and
vegetables, bananas and milk in the educational establishments**

Introduction

Exercising the powers conferred on them by virtue of the Act on the Co-Operation of the Croatian Parliament and the Government of the Republic of Croatia in European Affairs and the Standing Orders of the Croatian Parliament, the European Affairs Committee and the Agriculture Committee of the Croatian Parliament held a joint session on 17 March 2014, at which the Ministry of Agriculture submitted its report on the EU Agriculture Council meeting held on 17 February 2014.

As the Council's agenda included, inter alia, the discussion on the Proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 as regards the aid scheme for the supply of fruit and vegetables, bananas and milk in the educational establishments, the European Affairs Committee, in cooperation with the Agriculture Committee of the Croatian Parliament, conducted a debate on the presented position of the Republic of Croatia on the stated legislative proposal.

Having discussed the issue, Members of the European Affairs Committee and the Agriculture Committee unanimously endorsed the Croatian position which generally supports the Proposal, but has some concerns, especially when it comes to the allocation of the funds for milk in schools.

Opinion of the European Affairs Committee and the Agriculture Committee

The European Affairs Committee and the Agriculture Committee support the efforts of the European Commission to overcome the difficulties in the implementation of the current separate schemes of distribution of fruit and vegetables, including bananas, and milk to children in schools by establishing a common legal and financial framework for the distribution thereof.

Given the fact that Croatia did not participate in the existing EU-funded programmes of distribution of fruits, vegetables, bananas and milk to schoolchildren, and applied national programmes that were modeled on EU-funded schemes but were funded from the Croatian state budget, the European Affairs Committee and the Agriculture Committee express their concern that the use of historical data as a basis for the allocation of funds within the common framework for distribution would lead to Croatia's inadequate representation in the programme. The interests of school children in Croatia would particularly be at risk if historical data were to be used when allocating funds for school milk.

Following the debate conducted at the joint session of the European Affairs Committee and the Agriculture Committee and the abovementioned opinions, the European Affairs Committee and the Agriculture Committee refer to the Commission the following

CONCLUSIONS

1. We welcome the efforts of the European Commission to establish a common framework for the distribution of fruit and vegetables, bananas and milk to children in schools, assisted by appropriate educational measures, with the view to include as many school children as possible in the European Union and to raise awareness about the importance of balanced and varied diets.
2. The European Affairs Committee and the Agriculture Committee of the Croatian Parliament invite the European Commission to find solutions for future allocations of funds, especially when it comes to allocations for school milk, which will not put Croatia, as a new Member of the European Union, in a disadvantaged position in relation to other Member States.

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