



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS SEIMO
EUROPOS REIKALŲ KOMITETAS
SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

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Courtesy translation

Mr José Manuel Barroso
President of the
European Commission

2014-04-11 No S-2014-3148

**ON THE OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS OF THE SEIMAS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**

Dear Mr President,

On 26 March 2014 the Committee on European Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania considered the European Commission proposal COM (2014) 32 for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council 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.

Please be informed that the Committee on European Affairs of the Seimas passed the opinion that in order to ensure efficiency of the aid schemes, the assortment of products that meet the requirements for a healthy diet and are distributed among children under the School Milk Programme and the School Fruit Scheme, especially the assortment of dairy products and milk, should be preserved and support for the said programmes should be based on the principle of co-financing. Instead of opting for an EU contribution towards the price of products, the share of co-financing (in percent) should be established.

ATTACHMENT. The Opinion of 26 March 2014 of the Committee of European Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania on the European Commission proposal COM (2014) 32 for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council 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, 2 pages.

Sincerely,

Gediminas Kirkilas

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SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

OPINION

**PROPOSAL COM(2014) 32 FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL 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**

26 March 2014 No. V-2014-1666

Vilnius

The Committee on European Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,

having examined the European Commission Proposal COM(2014) 32 for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council 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 (hereinafter referred to as the Proposal), which is in line with the recommendations of the European Court of Auditors and aims not only to address the endogenous problems inherent to the functioning of the schemes in order to increase their efficiency and effectiveness, but also at providing a more unified policy response to ensure that the said programmes are capable of meeting the long-term objectives and effectively respond to the external challenges,

having examined the practical aspects of implementation of schemes promoting the consumption of milk, fruit and vegetables in educational establishments for children in the Republic of Lithuania;

having considered the opinion on the Proposal as expressed in the Conclusion No. 110-P-4/111-P-5 adopted by the Committee on Rural Affairs and the Committee on Health Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania on 12 March 2014;

recognising the need to better align and coordinate the School Milk Programme, on the one hand, and the School Fruit Scheme for the promotion of fruit and vegetable consumption in schools, on the other, in order to ensure synergies and effective management of the said programmes;

supporting the objectives to increase the intake of fruit, vegetables, and milk and promote children's healthy eating habits under the said programmes;

welcoming, in particular, the strengthening of the educational dimension embedded in the schemes, as it contributes to imparting knowledge, changing the attitudes and priorities of young people on food and food sources, raising their awareness on agriculture and agricultural products, and shaping a positive approach to environment protection, common agricultural policy, and the EU,

considers that

1. In order to ensure efficiency of the aid schemes, the assortment of products that meet the requirements for a healthy diet and are distributed among children under the School Milk Programme and the School Fruit Scheme, especially the assortment of dairy products and milk, should be preserved;
2. Support for the said programmes should be based on the principle of co-financing. Instead of opting for an EU contribution towards the price of products, the share of co-financing (in percent) should be established.
3. The Committee opposes the granting of powers to the European Commission by secondary legislation and supports defining the size of EU co-financing of the school fruit scheme costs and the size of the dedicated EU contribution to the programmes by a Council Regulation, as provided for in Article 43(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

Deputy Chair of the Committee



Petras Auštrevičius