



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels,
C(2012) 6541 final

M. Laurent MOSAR
Président de la Chambre des Députés
Rue du Marché-aux-Herbes 23
L – 1728 LUXEMBOURG

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies for its Opinion on the Commission's proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common organisation of agricultural markets in agricultural products (Single CMO Regulation)¹ and apologises for the long delay in replying.

This is one of a number of proposals that the Commission has made in the context of the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy post-2013.

The Commission has taken note of the comments made by the Chamber of Deputies in its Opinion and would like to provide the following clarifications.

As is noted in the Opinion, the proposal follows the approach of the Commission's earlier proposal to align Council Regulation (EC) No. 1234/2007 (the "Single CMO Regulation") with the Lisbon Treaty², in particular, the distinction of Commission powers between delegated and implementing acts on the basis of objective legal criteria in accordance with Articles 290 and 291 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). The Commission therefore maintains its approach on alignment.

Furthermore, the Commission would like to underline that the delegations of powers to the Commission in the proposal are delimited by many guarantees for the European Parliament and the Council. Moreover, the co-legislators (the European Parliament and the Council) keep the control of the delegated power as they have the possibility to oppose a delegated act adopted by the Commission or even to revoke the delegation of powers to the Commission.

¹ COM(2011) 626 final

² COM(2010) 799 final

In respect of the two specific issues raised in the Opinion, the previously established timetables for the expiry of the system of wine planting rights and milk quotas are unchanged by this proposal.

The decision for the Union planting rights system to apply only until 31 December 2015 results from the political agreement reached on the wine reform package in 2008, which confirms an equilibrium of the different measures and policies put in place for the wine sector. The aim of that important reform was to improve the market orientation of the sector and a report on the impact of the reform in the first 3 years of implementation will be presented to the European Parliament and the Council before the end of 2012.

The decision to end the milk quota system in 2015 was agreed as part of the 2003 reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. Subsequent decisions taken in the context of the "Health Check" agreement of 2008 aimed at ensuring a "soft landing" for the sector, whilst confirming the expiry of the quota system in 2015. The suggestions in your resolution concerning a "soft landing" for all Member States will be dealt with in a Commission report to the European Parliament and the Council regarding the evolution of the market situation and the consequent conditions for smoothly phasing out the milk quota system. The report will be presented by 31 December 2012, accompanied if necessary by appropriate proposals.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the concerns raised in the opinion of the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies and looks forward to continuing the policy dialogue in future on this and other issues.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*