



European Commission
DG Competition

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Public consultation

Danish Agriculture & Food Council's comments on guidelines on the application of the specific rules set out in article 169, 170 and 171 of the CMO regulations for the olive oil, beef and veal and arable crops sectors.

Danish Agriculture & Food Council has throughout the CAP reform process supported the idea of strengthening the farmers' position in the food value chain and regard producer organisations as one instrument to strengthen the competitive position of farmers. Many farmers across Europe are already organised in well-functioning co-operatives. There must be full co-existence between producer organisations and cooperatives, so that guidelines on contract relations in the mentioned sectors do not threaten the integrity of cooperatives. We recognize that the current draft guidelines respect that division and mutual coexistence.

Danish Agriculture & Food Council is sceptical towards the rules concerning derogation from competition rules for producer organisations in olive oil, beef and veal and arable crops sectors as laid down in art. 169, 170 and 171 in single CMO (1308/2013). However, we believe that the draft guidelines strike an acceptable balance between the purpose of strengthening the activities of producer organisations and respecting basic competition rules and mind-set. Danish Agriculture & Food Council urges nonetheless that the Commission oversees a uniform implementation and application of these guidelines across Europe so they will not be used to distort competition on the internal market.

The Danish Agriculture & Food Council is a trade association representing agriculture, the food and agro industries. With annual exports in excess of DKK 156 billion and with 169.000 employees, we represent one of Denmark's most important business sectors.

Through innovation and promotion of the industry's contribution to society, we work to ensure a strong position for our members in Denmark as well as in international markets.