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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

THE CHAIR

307670 04.05.2015

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IPOL-COM-AGRI D(2015) 21451

Subject: Public consultation on the Guidelines on the application of the specific rules set out in Articles 169, 170 and 171 of the CMO Regulation for the olive oil, beef and veal and arable crops sectors (REF HT4145 "CAP Reform - Guidelines")

Dear Commissioners,

Please find in annex the contribution of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Parliament (AGRI) to the public consultation on the draft Guidelines on the application of the specific rules set out in Articles 169, 170 and 171 of the CMO Regulation for the olive oil, beef and veal and arable crops sectors.

As you are aware, the European Parliament is the instigator of the inclusion into Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products (CMO Regulation) of provisions related to the publication of guidelines on the application of competition rules to agriculture by the Commission, with a view to assisting national competition authorities and undertakings. The aim was to ensure the uniform application of competition rules across the internal market and a correct interpretation of derogations to competition rules for agriculture. Other provisions of Regulation 1308/2013 related to the strengthening of the producers' position in the food chain through producer organisations are also key elements in this respect.

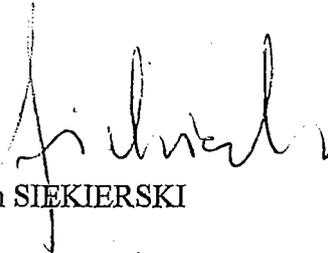
The intention of our Committee, through its contribution, is therefore to make sure that the intentions of the co-legislators as reflected in Regulation 1308/2013 are fully respected in the guidelines that will be adopted by the Commission.

This contribution is the result of an internal consultation among the political groups and coordinators of our Committee in cooperation with the EP rapporteur on Regulation 1308/2013, Michel Dantin. It is also based on previous positions adopted by the European Parliament on agriculture and competition issues, including the Parliament's mandate for negotiations on the CMO Regulation, as adopted in plenary on 13 March 2013.

We therefore thank you in advance for taking due account of the contribution of our Committee when finalising the Commission guidelines.

Furthermore, we look forward to the debate with both of you, Mrs Commissioner and Mr Commissioner, during an extraordinary meeting of our Committee on 8 June 2015 in Strasbourg, which will be another opportunity for our Members to present their views on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,



Czesław Adam SIEKIERSKI

ANNEX: Contribution of the EP AGRI Committee in view of the public consultation on the Guidelines on the application of the specific rules set out in Articles 169, 170 and 171 of the CMO Regulation for the olive oil, beef and veal and arable crops sectors