**Proposal: amending Regulation EU (No) 1408/2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to *de minimis* aid in the agriculture sector**

Romania main comments on COM proposal are as follows:

**ART. 1(2)**

Not in favor.Ro requests to COM **to delete article 2, paragraph 4** – no to replace it

Also, to delete recital (3).

See below comments art. 3(4)

**ART. 3**

**(2) – RO requests to be replaced with the following:**

**“2.** The total amount of *de minimis* aid granted per Member State to a single undertaking shall not exceed **EUR 50 000 over any period of 3 years”**.

COM should increase the individual aid to 50,000 EUR instead of 37,000 EUR.

This amount better reflects the current agriculture needs and a more suitable prognosis on inflation up to 2032, year.

Link to this point, RO requests to COM to amend also recital (1).

Clarification relating to 3 years – from our interpretation means calendar year that runs from January 1 to December 31, but

Ro understand form recital (5) that the interpretation of “over any period of 3 years” means for each new grand of the minimis aid the period should be assessed on the rolling basis in order to be align with the general de minimis Regulation *(Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2831)).*

**From our point of view, there is difficult to assess on the rolling basis when a MS gives in 1 year more than one single “de minimis” schemes and through not one single Paying agency or Provider.**

**RO requests to COM to amend recital (5) in order to understand “over any period of 3 years” – calendar year from January 1 to December 31 not rolling basis.**

As a remark: The General de minimis Regulation not speaking about **national cap or sector cap**, is taking into account just the cumulative individual aid granted to a single undertaking.

**(3)** COM must double the amount allocated to the **national cap**. In case of Romania to 500,000,000 EUR.

This amount better reflects the current agriculture needs and a more suitable prognosis on inflation up to 2032, year.

Link to this, amend recital (2).

**(4)** **RO requests to COM to be deleted**. Not in favor **with the sentence “**not more than 50 % of the total cumulative amount of *de minimis* aid to one specific product sector - sector cap”.

The COVID and Ukraine situation have demonstrated that is difficult to avoid it. In RO, in the period 2021 - 2023, the vegetal sector needed a real support from the national budget (more than 50% from the total cumulative amount of the minimis). The role of the minimis aid is to help and to be near undertakings when the market is affected and to give to the them small amount of money, as “de minimis” aid.

**Link to this point, RO requests to COM to delete also recital (3) and to replace throughout the entire document the reference to paragraph (4) – sector cap.**

**If, the COM will not take into account our opinion, RO requests to include as currently is, a different annex with the amount for national cap.**

**ART. 6 Monitoring and reporting**

**RO does not support the COM proposal on monitoring and reporting.**

**RO strongly prefer to apply the same rules as currently in place.**

The central register should not remain mandatory for MS.

Not through a central registral a MS will ensure the compliance with Regulation: the individual aid and national cap.

In Romania, "de minimis" aid is primarily granted to natural persons. Some measures involve 20,000 beneficiaries under a single scheme, and these beneficiaries do not have a statistical classification of economic activities (NACE classification).

To grant "de minimis" aid in agriculture, RO uses two entities: the Paying Agency for Agriculture (with 42 county offices) and the County Agricultural Directorate (with 42 county offices).

When a new scheme is granted, farmers receive assistance from these two entities to complete their applications, including details of all amounts received in previous and current years.

The new monitoring and reporting system proposed by COM will not ease the farmers obligation and administrative work. By including this obligation to have a central registral for agriculture, Ro believes that will not be reduce the administrative border, neither for undertakings, neither for administration.