Common agricultural policy CAP: common rules for support schemes for farmers

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The Council was briefed on the two following proposals in the light of the adaptation to the Lisbon Treaty:

- A proposal amending Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD);
- A proposal amending Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 on direct support schemes for farmers under the CAP.

These proposals also contain a number of simplification provisions, which follow up on the assessment by the Commission services of the 39 simplification proposals presented by Member States in 2009.

Many delegations expressed the view that alignment of agricultural legislation with the Lisbon Treaty was a complex issue, which required further clarification by the Commission and an in-depth analysis by Member States' experts. As regards the proposed simplification provisions, those were generally welcomed. Several delegations, however, were disappointed that the proposals did not go far enough. They reiterated suggestions for further simplification and urged the Commission to continue its efforts.

These Commission proposals intend to reshape Commission implementing powers in CAP-related legislation and bring them into line with the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty (49 basic acts are concerned). The proposed amendments classify the Commission's existing powers as either delegated or implementing powers.

Simplification elements in the proposal amending regulation (EC) n° 73/2009 concern follow-up controls on minor infringements relating to cross-compliance and the exemption from the obligation to lodge an area declaration for small areas (less than 1 ha).

These proposals will be examined by the Council preparatory bodies.