

**AGRICULTURE and FISHERIES Council**  
**5 September 2014 in Brussels**

*This extraordinary Council meeting will start at 14.00 on Friday 5 September 2014. The Council will be chaired by Mr Maurizio MARTINA, Minister for Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policy.*

*Ministers will debate on the **Russian import ban on EU agricultural products**.*

*The **press conference** will be organised at the end of the meeting (+/-16.30).*

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*Press conferences and public events by video streaming: [video.consilium.europa.eu](http://video.consilium.europa.eu).*

*Video coverage in broadcast quality (MPEG4): [tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu](http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu).*

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<sup>1</sup> This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.

## **AGRICULTURE**

### **Russian ban on EU products**

Ministers will evaluate the impact and implications of the Russian ban on imports of EU agricultural products.

By Decree of its President dated 6 August 2014 № 560 "On the application of certain special economic measures to ensure the security of the Russian Federation", the Russian Federation banned for imports, for a period of one year, a number of agricultural products, raw materials and foodstuffs originating from the United States, countries of the European Union, Canada, Australia and the Kingdom of Norway, as a countermeasure to sanction imposed on Russia because of the situation in Ukraine. The list of banned products was slightly modified on 20 August. It includes meat, fish and crustaceans, milk and dairy products, fruit and vegetables, sausages and food or finished products.

On 15 August 2014, an extraordinary session of the Foreign Affairs Council dealt with the situation in Ukraine and regretted the Russian Federation's announcement of measures targeting imports of certain agricultural products originating in the EU. It also confirmed this extraordinary meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council to assess the impact of these measures and the appropriate response.

The Commission convened different meetings of the Management Committee to discuss the market situation for products affected by the Russian ban. In the light of those discussions, the Commission decided on 18 August to trigger Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) emergency measures to reduce the overall supply of a number of perishable fruit and vegetables products on the European market (market withdrawals, compensation for non-harvesting and green harvesting). These measures will apply until the end of November with a budget foreseen of €125 million (the products concerned are the following: tomatoes, carrots, white cabbage, peppers, cauliflowers, cucumbers, and gherkins, mushrooms, apples, pear, red fruits, table grapes and kiwis). Emergency support measures for peaches and nectarines had already been announced on 11 August (€29.7 million for withdrawals and €3 million for promotion). Emergency market support measures for certain dairy products have also been decided.

Russia's import ban has also some repercussions on fisheries, in particular on the pelagic industries (Baltic countries, United Kingdom). The Commission indicated that it is in contact with Member States over how to react to the temporary unavailability of this market.

The debate in the Council will be organised around a set of questions prepared by the Presidency focussing on the products affected by the embargo in the Member States and the measures already taken to mitigate the negative effect of the ban at the national or the European level.