



The Estonian Presidency Programme for the Agriculture and Fisheries Council (AGRIFISH)

Considering the world's growing need for food, limited resources and pressure on climate, sustainable agriculture and fisheries continue to be the cornerstones of EU economy and policies.

In the field of agriculture, the central topic of the Estonian Presidency is the **future of the Common Agricultural Policy**. The results of the CAP public consultation will emerge in July 2017, enabling Estonia to continue the work started by previous presidencies to move towards a new CAP. The future CAP will also be discussed at the informal meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Tallinn in September. The Presidency will put emphasis on the simplification of the CAP, largely in the context of the **Omnibus Regulation**.

The Presidency aims at ensuring the **sustainability and competitiveness of EU agriculture** also in the future. Recently, **agricultural markets** have experienced a series of fluctuations, especially in milk, fruit and vegetable and pig meat sectors. The Presidency will monitor the market situation and work very closely with the Commission in finding feasible solutions in case of difficulties. The Estonian Presidency will be devoted to **strengthening the producers' position in the food supply chain**. Producers tend to be the weakest party in the food supply chain and the challenges faced are similar across the EU.

The Presidency will continue examining the Commission proposal for the **spirit drinks** regulation with the aim of agreeing on the Council general approach.

The Estonian Presidency wishes to draw attention to the sustainable use of agricultural soils. Therefore, a high-level conference taking place in October in Tallinn is titled '**Soils for sustainable food production and ecosystem services**'.

The Estonian Presidency will **prepare and achieve approval for the EU positions in international organisations**. The Estonian Presidency strives towards an open trade policy and trade agreements, which take into consideration the interests of agriculture. The Presidency invites the Commission to inform the Agriculture and Fisheries Council regularly on the state of play of international bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations and Member States will have the opportunity to express their views.

It is important to tackle the issue of the growing **antimicrobial resistance**. The Presidency will contribute to the implementation of the One Health policy covering human, animal and environmental aspects by facilitating discussions and exchange of experiences at different levels. In addition, the Estonian Presidency will continue the efforts made by previous presidencies to move forward with the veterinary medicine and medicated feed regulations.

One of the overall goals of the Estonian Presidency is a digital Europe. The Presidency will promote discussions on how to implement digital solutions for effective control measures. The Presidency supports new e-solutions by organising, in cooperation with the European Commission, a conference to discuss the Integrated Information Management System for Official Controls (IMSOC).





In order to implement new rules in plant health, the Presidency prioritises contingency planning in the field of plant health for promoting emergency preparedness.

During the Estonian Presidency, the priorities for fisheries are twofold: firstly, the quota regulations must be adopted by 2018. At the October Agriculture and Fisheries Council, the Presidency aims to adopt the **Baltic Sea fishing opportunities** and at the December meeting the **Black Sea fishing opportunities** and **fishing opportunities in EU waters and beyond**. When introducing the quotas, the goal of the Common Fisheries Policy to achieve the maximum sustainability yield by 2020 must be taken into account.

Secondly, the Presidency aims to continue working on co-decision files, such as the management plans, trying to reach the general approach where possible. For the Presidency, it is important to restart discussions on the **Baltic Sea salmon multi-annual management plan**, which was initiated by the European Commission in 2011. There is a high probability for some co-decision files to proceed to trilogues such as the **North Sea management plan** and the **technical measures framework regulation** and possibly the proposal on the **sustainable management of external fishing fleet**.

The Presidency also plans to start discussions on the **future of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)** by organising, in cooperation with European Commission, the conference on the future of EMFF.

