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Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques  
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**English - Or. English**

**COUNCIL**

**Council**

**DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL RENEWING AND REVISING THE MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE (COAG)**

**(Note by the Secretary-General)**

**JT03411185**

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1. This document contains a proposal to renew and revise the mandate of the Committee for Agriculture (COAG) as approved by the Committee for Agriculture by a written procedure on 13 January 2017 [[TAD/CA\(2016\)9/REV2](#)]. The current mandate expires on 31 July 2017.

## **Background**

2. The Committee for Agriculture was created in 1961. Its current mandate dates from the start of January 2009 [[C\(2008\)182](#) & CORR]; it has been extended on three occasions in 2013 [[C\(2013\)85](#)], 2015 [[C\(2015\)73](#)] and 2016; [[C\(2016\)94](#)] in order to allow for the completion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle In-depth-Evaluation (IDE) of the Committee.

3. The revision of the mandate proposed here (see Annex) reflects:

- The recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle IDE in relation to several aspects, most notably in relation to collaboration with other policy communities across the OECD, and in relation to its communications and outreach activities, including to non-governmental stakeholders;
- The priorities, objectives and methods as reflected in the Declaration on Better Policies to Achieve a Productive, Sustainable and Resilient Global Good System adopted at the meeting of the Committee for Agriculture at Ministerial level on 8 April 2016 [[C\(2016\)71](#)];
- The alignment to the structure of the current Committee mandates in which overarching and mid-level objectives are distinguished and in which methods and co-operation arrangements are also detailed as separate headings;
- Discussions during the Committee for Agriculture meeting of 18-19 May 2016 [[TAD/CA/M\(2016\)2](#)] and 23-24 November 2016 [[TAD/CA/M\(2016\)3](#)].

## **Evaluation of the Substructure**

4. In accordance with Rule 21 c) of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee evaluated the continuing relevance of its sub-structure. In this regard, the Committee concluded that no changes were required in its substructure, consisting of the Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets (APM), including the Group on Commodity Markets, and the Joint Working Party on Agriculture and the Environment (JWPAE). The APM will continue to handle the Committee's flagship outputs (the medium term outlook and the monitoring and evaluation of agricultural policy changes) as well as a wide range of other agricultural policy topics, increasingly covering key partners and other important agricultural producers and consumers. The JWPAE will continue to provide the platform for important horizontal work on environmental performance of agriculture, and agriculture related natural resource and climate change issues. Amendments to the mandates of these subsidiary bodies, mainly reflecting and aligning to the changes in the Committee's mandate, have been discussed and agreed by the Committee [[TAD/CA\(2017\)1/CORR](#), [TAD/CA\(2017\)3](#) and [ENV/EPOC\(2017\)7](#)].

5. With respect to the Joint Working Party on Agriculture and Trade, the Committee had been requested, in the context of Recommendations 3 and 4 of the In-Depth Evaluation of the COAG [[C\(2016\)27](#)], to “undertake a review of how its work is allocated and processed within its structure, including how to best use the Joint Working Party on Agriculture and Trade (JWPA&T), and make the necessary improvements to support the efficiency of its functioning”. Recommendation 4 asks, inter alia, that the Committee “examine the feasibility of alternative approaches to a formal joint working party as a means of working horizontally with the Trade Committee”. The Trade Committee, in its earlier In-Depth-Evaluation [[C\(2015\)4](#)], had also been asked to reflect on similar questions.

6. The Committee for Agriculture discussed these questions during its meetings of 3-4 February 2016 [[TAD/CA/M\(2016\)1](#)] and 18-19 May 2016 [[TAD/CA/M\(2016\)2](#)]. Consistent with the discussion which had taken place in the Trade Committee, the Committee for Agriculture was also of the view that it wished to retain the Joint Working Party on Agriculture and Trade in its current form. However, as had the Trade Committee, they agreed that its functioning should be improved, work programme should be reinforced and that co-operation should be strengthened with the other parent body. Proposals for how to do this were made in the form of a short document presented to both Committees [[TAD/CA\(2016\)19](#)] and discussed during the meetings of the Committee for Agriculture of 23-24 November 2016 [[TAD/CA/M\(2016\)3](#)] and Trade Committee of 3-4 November 2016 [[TAD/TC/M\(2016\)2](#)]. Both Committees have tasked the Secretariat to implement a number of their suggestions, about how the functioning of the JWPA&T might be improved for example, back-to-back or joint sessions with the Working Party of the Trade Committee, mutual reporting by the respective chairs, occasional agricultural trade policy discussions in the Trade Committee.

7. These proposals have duly been incorporated into the Committee for Agriculture's Action Plan which was agreed by the Committee on 5 September 2016 by written procedure [[TAD/CA\(2016\)8/FINAL](#)], and are currently being implemented. The mandate of the Joint Working Party, slightly amended has also been approved by written procedure by the parent committees [[TAD/CA\(2017\)2](#) and [TAD/TC\(2017\)1](#)].

### **Proposed Action**

8. In the light of the preceding, the Secretary-General invites the Council to adopt the following draft conclusions:

#### THE COUNCIL

- a) noted document [C\(2017\)39](#);
- b) adopted the draft Resolution of the Council renewing and revising the mandate of the Committee for Agriculture as set out in the Annex to document [C\(2017\)39](#), which will enter into force on 1 August 2017.

ANNEX

**DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL  
RENEWING AND REVISING THE MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE**

THE COUNCIL,

Having regard to the Convention on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development of 14 December 1960;

Having regard to the Rules of Procedure of the Organisation;

Having regard to the Revised Resolution of the Council on Partnerships in OECD Bodies [[C\(2012\)100/REV1/FINAL](#)];

Having regard to paragraphs 21, 22, 23, 26 and 89 of the Report of the Preparatory Committee concerning the creation of a Committee for Agriculture, whose mandate was last revised in 2008 [[C\(2008\)182](#) & CORR1] and extended in 2016 [[C\(2016\)94](#)];

Having regard to the Communiqués of the meetings of the Committee for Agriculture at Ministerial level in 1992, 1998 and in 2010;

Having regard to the Declaration on Better Policies to Achieve a Productive, Sustainable and Resilient Global Food System adopted at the meeting of the Committee for Agriculture at Ministerial level on 8 April 2016 [[C\(2016\)71](#)] (hereafter the “Ministerial Declaration”), which raises the urgent need for integrated policy approaches that will better enable farmers and the food sector to simultaneously improve productivity, increase competitiveness and profitability, improve resilience, access markets at home and abroad, manage natural resources more sustainably, contribute to global food security, and deal with extreme market volatility, while avoiding trade distortions;

Having regard to the results of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle In-depth Evaluation of the Committee for Agriculture [[C\(2016\)27](#)], approved by the Council on 6 April 2016 [[C/M\(2016\)5](#), Item 72];

Having regard to the proposed revision of the mandate of the Committee for Agriculture [[C\(2017\)39](#)];

DECIDES:

A. The Committee for Agriculture (hereafter “the Committee”) is renewed with the following revised mandate, to be implemented in accordance with the Ministerial Declaration:

**I. Objectives**

1. The overarching objective of the Committee is to help Members and Partners to define and implement the integrated policy approaches needed to underpin competitive, sustainable, productive and resilient farm and food businesses;

2. The mid-level objectives of the Committee are to:

- a) define and promote guidelines, best practices and policy approaches which are coherent with economy-wide objectives, transparent, targeted, tailored, flexible, consistent and equitable, while ensuring value for money for scarce government resources;
- b) assist Members and Partners in the process of shifting policy focus towards emerging priorities in respect of improving economic and environmental performance, innovation,

resilience, risk management, plant, animal and human health, rural development, sustainability, climate change, natural resources, as well as food and nutrition security;

- c) facilitate inclusive growth and development and support a better functioning market and multilateral trade system enabling the further integration of the agriculture and agri-food sectors, domestically and internationally.

## **II. Methods**

3. In order to achieve these objectives, the Committee shall:

- a) provide the evidence to support policy processes, and a forum for sharing and comparing policy experiences;
- b) evaluate coherence between sectoral objectives and policies and economy-wide measures, to advise on how to build comprehensive and consistent policy packages, reflecting, where appropriate, the diversity of economic, environmental, social and food security situations across and within countries;
- c) monitor and evaluate agricultural policy and agricultural trade policy developments using the best available qualitative and quantitative tools, to assess alignment with agreed shared goals;
- d) provide forward looking policy and market information, covering short, medium and long-term perspectives of both Members and Partners;
- e) monitor and analyse structural, economic and policy developments throughout the supply chain from farm to consumer, their implications for the farm sector and for farm and food sector policies.
- f) build support for policy change through communication and dissemination of the Committee's data, analysis and policy advice to a wide range of governmental, both Members and Partners, and civil-society actors.

## **III. Co-operation Arrangements**

4. The Committee shall:

- a) collaborate closely with other relevant bodies of the OECD on cross-cutting issues related to food and agriculture, including on trade, investment, environment, development, territorial development, health, innovation science and technology;
- b) engage Partners and stakeholders in the analytical work and policy dialogue of the Committee as appropriate in accordance with the Committee's Global Relations Strategy and the outreach priorities agreed OECD-wide;
- c) consult and share information, as appropriate, with the Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC) and the Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC), as well as with civil society stakeholders in the food and agriculture sector and academia;
- d) co-operate with other international organisations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) and others as determined by the needs of the Committee's work and its Global Relations Strategy.

B. The mandate of the Committee for Agriculture shall remain in force until **31 December 2021**.