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Directorate C. Strategy, simplification and Policy Analysis
C.1. Policy perspectives

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NOTE FOR THE FILE

Subject: Meeting with Food Drink Europe – European Commission, 14 February 2020

Participants: Tassos Haniotis, (DG AGRI),
(Food Drink Europe)

Questions Food Drink Europe in relation to the Green Deal:

- 1) Do you see concerns on security of supply, both in terms of quantity and quality?
- 2) What are the consequences for the players in the middle, between farmers and retail?

Mr. Haniotis:

Basic question we have to respond to, do we have to produce at global level more with less or not? At the moment, we use different approaches to human, animal and plant diseases, which complicates search for solutions. Which alternatives will we have and by when? Often policy measures lead to adjustments and some transition costs, but result in a new market that is viable, e.g. on battery eggs. Believe that scope for adjustment is also possible for pesticides. Question on fertilisers, where nitrogen is the big question. However, Macsharry reform demonstrated that major reductions in nitrogen reduction are possible without drop in production. And production costs for farmers decreased. We need to develop systems that demonstrate what is already happening on the ground is possible at a larger scale, thus producing more with they less.

Companies and citizens are generally moving in a sustainable direction. Continued polarised debate on livestock is likely.

Green deal can be opportunity and growth strategy, linking it to technology and knowledge.

- Pesticides. Farmers are expecting quite some problems with sugar beets without neonics. And count on them using many other chemicals.

Mr. Haniotis:

Important to develop alternatives, including through new breeding techniques. Need technological breakthrough. Bigger question on European approach to technology. Private sector has capacity to demonstrate how technologies can work! And bring positive examples.

- What is the time line for green deal?

Mr. Haniotis set out the main steps In terms of communications and impact assessment work on climate ambition.

- How long will approval of the plans take?

Mr. Haniotis: we need to focus on performance, not on compliance. DG AGRI is already working with Member States on SWOT analyses and needs assessment and is preparing further support material for Member States.

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c.c.:

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