

\$(summary.referenceAndDate) - \${summary.subTitle}

The proposal for a Single CMO regulation is part of the CAP reform package and lays down rules for the common organisation of agricultural markets. It aims to streamline, simplify and adapt provisions on the basis of experience on public intervention, private storage, exceptional/emergency measures and aid to specific sectors.

Ministers considered specifically the safety net function of market management measures and the possible need for updating reference prices.

- Many delegations considered the improved safety net as proposed by the Commission to be sufficiently effective. A number of those Member States expressed concerns on the likely budgetary impact of any meaningful adjustment of the safety net.
- Several delegations saw merit in examining the feasibility of introducing a mechanism to allow future updates of reference prices, so as to ensure they reflect the real market situation. No clear view emerged however on how such a mechanism would exactly work and under what conditions it would apply. There were particular concerns from several member states about sectors facing particular difficulties, including the livestock and dairy, sectors.
- Some delegations expressed the view that increasing reference prices would send a wrong signal to WTO partners and would not contribute to a sustainable future of the European agricultural sector. There were also calls for phasing out export refunds under the CAP.

The CAP reform package was presented by the Commission at the Agriculture Council meeting in October 2011. Since then, the Council has held general policy debates on the CAP reform proposals almost monthly.