



Bringing Organisations & Network Development
to higher levels in the Farming sector in Europe

Group 1: Preparing a press release

4 people

Task: Prepare a press release for the ToT in Cordoba in the frame of the EC Horizon 2020 project BOND.

Please, use the following steps:

- **Headline**
- **Summary or introduction of the news**
- **Event or achievements**
- **Product**
- **People**
- **again the concluding summary**
- **Source.**

You may wish to reflect on the followings:

- **What is the actual news?**
- **Why this is news.**
- **The people (use quotes), products, items, dates and other things related with the news.**
- **The purpose behind the news.**
- **Promote your organisation - the source of this news.**

Group 2: Journalists preparing an article based on a press release

3 people

Task: Prepare an article for the press with 2,300 words using the below press-release

European Commission - Press release

Drought in Europe: Commission presents additional measures to support farmers

Brussels, 30 August 2018

In light of the difficulties faced by European farmers affected by drought this summer, the European Commission continues acting to provide practical support to the sector. Additional flexibility will be granted to help farmers provide sufficient feed to their animals.

The European Commission presented today an additional package of actions aimed at increasing the availability of fodder resources for livestock, one of the main challenges faced by farmers dealing with the impact of drought. This package complements the measures already announced early August.

Commissioner for Agriculture, Phil Hogan, said: "The Commission reacted swiftly to the first signals of these extreme climatic events and I keep following the situation closely. I am in contact with ministers from affected Member States as we are assessing the adequacy of the actions already in place. We are today taking additional action which I believe should provide relief to European farmers against the shortage of feed for animals. I welcome the recent announcements by several Member States ready to act for their agricultural sector, and I will continue working with them to ensure they use to the full extent the possibilities available, most notably within the Common Agricultural Policy."

More specifically, the new derogations presented today concern certain greening rules:

Possibility to consider winter crops which are normally sown in autumn for harvesting/grazing as catch crops (prohibited under current rules) if intended for grazing/fodder production;

Possibility to sow catch crops as pure crops (and not a mixture of crops as currently prescribed) if intended for grazing/fodder production;

Possibility to shorten the 8-weeks minimum period for catch crops to allow arable farmers to sow their winter crops in a timely manner after their catch crops;

Extension of the previously adopted derogation to cut/graze fallow land to France.

The proposal on higher advanced payments, already announced a few weeks ago, was also formally presented today. Farmers will be able to receive up to 70% of their directpayment and 85% of payments under rural development already as of mid-October 2018 instead of waiting until December to improve their cash flow situation.

These proposals come in addition to the provisions already available for such circumstances. In all cases, the Commission ensures that all these measures are implemented in a proportionate way taking into account environmental concerns. For example, under existing state aid rules, aid of up to 80% of the damage caused by drought (or up to 90% in Areas of Natural Constraint) can be provided, subject to certain specific conditions. The purchase of fodder can qualify for aid as either material damage or income loss. Compensation for damage can also be granted without the need to notify the Commission (the so-called "de minimis aid") with amounts up to €15,000 per farmer over three years. Relief possibilities also exist under rural development, including the financing of re-seeding of pastures for example or compensation for loss of income.

Today's proposals were submitted to Member States gathered in a Committee meeting. They should be voted in the coming days and formally adopted by the end of September. The measures will apply retro-actively.

The Commission is in contact with all Member States to receive updated information by 31 August of the impact of drought.

Press contacts:

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General public inquiries: Europe Direct by phone 00 800 67 89 10 11 or by email

Group 3: Preparing a blog

4 people

Task: prepare a blog on a voluntary chosen subject.

Remember that the blog shall be personal, sharing experience and shall generate followers (being attractive).

Group 4: Make a radio interview

2 people

Task: Make an interview for the local Cordoba radio station. One person is interviewing and another is interviewee. Please, use a message map; be logical and emotional (e.g. a share personal story).

Group 5 and 6: Take a TV interview

4 people

One participant shall be the TV speaker on the talk show and the three others are representatives of different stakeholders' groups.

Please, use a message map; be logical and emotional (e.g. a share personal story).