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Agenda Item	2 - Revision of Annex III part II of the Helsinki Convention
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Background

The Agri group agreed in the AGRI 6-2018 Meeting to form a drafting group to carry out the revision of the Annex III part II of the Helsinki Convention and share the work between four lead countries. Germany is the lead country for Regulation 2 item 6 “Application of organic manures”. The first version drafted by Germany was discussed at an online meeting of the drafting group on 25 September 2018. The attached document includes a new version of the regulation 2 Item 6 of Annex III part II drafted by Germany taking into account the comments received from the drafting group.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to discuss the draft paragraph.

*Regulation 2 item 6***New version 2.6.2:**

Application of organic fertilisers and organic residual materials

Organic fertilisers and organic residual materials are valuable sources of nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium and organic carbon which are required for the replenishment of nutrients and humus in soil. In addition to the amount of these nutrients, amounts of harmful substances, phyto-/ bioavailability and mineralisation rate of different organic fertilizers types should also be considered in order to ensure the optimal supply of the plants and to avoid eutrophication and contamination. In cases of nutrient surpluses in regions with high livestock density the organic fertilizer should be processed and transported in other regions to replace a part of mineral fertilizer rates there. In order to facilitate high utilization efficiency, the best available application technique should be used, depending on the type of fertilizer, crop and location characteristics. Organic fertilisers and organic residual materials should be incorporated if possible after spreading and always in case of application on bare soils. The nutrients should be available to the plants during the growing season taking into account the turnover rate of different fertilizers. If soils are frozen, water saturated or covered with snow no application of organic fertilisers and organic residual materials is permitted. Further periods with high risk of leaching and GHG losses shall be defined when no application is accepted.

Comment: The phrase “In cases of nutrient surpluses in regions with high livestock density the organic fertilizer should be processed and transported in other regions to replace a part of mineral fertilizer rates there.” Could also be moved to the new paragraph “Nutrient recycling”.

Old version:

Application of organic manure

Organic manures (slurry, solid manure, urine, sewage sludge, composts, etc) should be used in such a way that a high utilisation efficiency can be achieved. Organic manures shall be spread in a way that minimises the risk of loss of plant nutrients and should not be spread on soils that are frozen, water saturated or covered with snow. Organic manures should be incorporated as soon as possible after application on bare soils.