



Brussels, 29.9.2014
C(2014) 7127 final

COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) No .../..

of 29.9.2014

**laying down further temporary exceptional support measures for producers of certain
fruit and vegetables**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. CONTEXT OF THE DELEGATED ACT

The Delegated Act is a support measure for the Union's producers of tomatoes, carrots, cabbages, sweet peppers, cauliflowers and headed broccoli, cucumbers and gherkins, mushrooms, apples, pears, plums, soft fruit, fresh table grapes, kiwifruit, sweet oranges, clementines and mandarins. These sectors have been hit hard by the ban on the importation of certain Union products into Russia which was introduced by Russia on 7 August 2014.

The effect of the ban is that an important export market for Union fruit and vegetables products has disappeared. This has created a serious threat of significant price falls in the Union's fruit and vegetable market as many of these products are harvested at this time of the year and are perishable. In addition, for some products, markets may anticipate over supply in the future, causing the price of those products to fall, even when the product in question will not be ready for export until later in the year.

In response to this situation, on 29 August 2014 the Commission adopted Delegated Regulation (EU) No 932/2014 laying down temporary exceptional support measures for producers of certain fruit and vegetables and amending Delegated Regulation (EU) No 913/2014. Due to a significant surge in notifications of intended operations from Member States, the available budget was exceeded on 8 September 2014. To make the release of further aid more efficient, the targeted support measures included in this regulation are needed.

The calculation of the additional quantities to be withdrawn from the market and eligible for Union finance should be made in accordance with the level of exports to Russia of the products concerned during the previous three years, less the quantities that have already been notified under Delegated Regulation (EU) No 932/2014. In order to ensure that all producers are supported by the Union, Union financial assistance should be extended to producers who are not members of a recognised producer organisation.

However Union financial assistance will be made available for an additional quantity of 3000 tonnes of products withdrawn from the markets in each Member State.

In order to have an immediate impact on the market and to help stabilise prices, the temporary exceptional support measures should be adopted as quickly as possible and on the basis of the urgency procedure provided for in Article 219 in conjunction with Article 228 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007.

2. CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION OF THE ACT

As the measure is being adopted under the urgency procedure pursuant to Article 219 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 in conjunction with Article 228 thereof an impact assessment has not been carried out. A technical meeting to discuss the situation with experts from Member States took place on 16 September 2014. Member States generally agreed with the proposal and were satisfied with a simpler scheme presented by the Commission. They suggested further amendments which have partially been taken into account (e.g. on the extension of the scope of the measure).

3. LEGAL ELEMENTS OF THE DELEGATED ACT

The delegated act is based on Article 219(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013. It should be adopted by means of the urgency procedure according to Article 219(1) second subparagraph and Article 228 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013. This means that the delegated act enters immediately into force without delay.

It will apply as long as no objection is expressed by the European Parliament or the Council within a period of two months (or - if one of the institutions asks for an extension for two additional months - within a period of 4 months). If objections are expressed, the Commission shall repeal the act without delay.

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007¹, and in particular Article 219(1) in conjunction with Article 228 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 7 August the Russian government introduced a ban on imports of certain products from the Union to Russia, including fruit and vegetables. This ban has created a serious threat of market disturbances caused by significant price falls due to the fact that an important export market has suddenly become unavailable.
- (2) That threat of market disturbances is of particular relevance for the fruit and vegetables sector where large quantities of perishable products are harvested at this time of the year.
- (3) Accordingly, a situation has arisen on the market for which the normal measures available under Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 appear to be insufficient.
- (4) In order to prevent the existing market situation from turning into a more severe or prolonged market disturbance, Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 932/2014² was adopted. It provided for maximum amounts of support for withdrawal, non-harvesting and green harvesting operations. However, further support measures are needed. The mechanism introduced in that regulation should therefore be supplemented by measures in the form of additional, targeted support for certain quantities of products, calculated on the basis of traditional exports to Russia.
- (5) Further temporary exceptional support measures should be adopted for tomatoes, carrots, cabbages, sweet peppers, cauliflowers and headed broccoli, cucumbers and gherkins, mushrooms, apples, pears, plums, soft fruit, fresh table grapes, kiwifruit, sweet oranges, clementines and mandarins.
- (6) Taking the estimated quantities affected by the ban into account, the Union financial assistance should be granted in accordance with the quantities of products concerned. The calculation of those quantities should be made for each Member State in accordance with the level of its exports to Russia of the products concerned for the

¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 671.

² Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 932/2014 of 29 August 2014 laying down temporary exceptional support measures for producers of certain fruit and vegetables and amending Delegated Regulation (EU) No 913/2014 (OJ L 259, 30.8.2014, p. 2).

previous three years, less the quantities that have already been notified under Delegated Regulation (EU) No 932/2014.

- (7) It is expected that products covered by this Regulation, which would have been exported to Russia, will be diverted to the markets of other Member States. Producers of the same products within these Member States, which do not traditionally export their products to Russia, may accordingly be faced with a significant market disturbance and a fall in prices.
- (8) Therefore, and in order to further stabilise the market, Union financial assistance should also be available for producers in all Member States in respect of one or more of the products covered by this Regulation, but the quantity involved should not exceed 3 000 tonnes per Member State.
- (9) Member States should remain free to decide not to use the quantity of 3 000 tonnes. Where they do so, they should inform the Commission in time to allow the Commission to decide on a re-allocation of the quantities that have not been used.
- (10) Market withdrawal, non-harvesting and green harvesting are effective crisis management measures in case of surplus of fruit and vegetables due to temporary and unpredictable circumstances. Member States should have the possibility to allocate the quantities made available to them to one or more of these measures in order to make the most efficient use of the amounts available.
- (11) As in Delegated Regulation (EU) No 932/2014, the restriction of 5% as a proportion of the volume of marketed production for supported market withdrawals should be temporarily lifted. The Union financial assistance should therefore be granted even when withdrawals exceed the 5 % ceiling.
- (12) Financial assistance granted for market withdrawals should be based on the respective amounts set out in Annex XI to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011³ for withdrawals for free distribution and for withdrawals for other destinations. For those products for which no amount is fixed in Annex XI to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011, maximum amounts should be laid down in this Regulation.
- (13) Taking into account that the amounts for tomatoes set out in Annex XI to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 refer to the marketing year of tomatoes for processing and tomatoes for fresh consumption, it is adequate to clarify that the maximum amount applicable for tomatoes for fresh consumption for the purpose of this Regulation is the one concerning the period from 1 November until 31 May.
- (14) In the light of the exceptional market disturbances and in order to ensure that all producers of fruit and vegetables are supported by the Union, Union financial assistance for market withdrawals should be extended to producers of fruit and vegetables who are not members of a recognised producer organisation.
- (15) In order to encourage the free distribution of withdrawn fruit and vegetables to certain organisations, such as charitable organisations and schools and any other equivalent destinations approved by the Member States, 100% of the maximum amounts fixed in Annex XI to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 should also be applicable to

³ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 of 7 June 2011 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 in respect of the fruit and vegetables and processed fruit and vegetables sectors (OJ L 157, 15.6.2011, p. 1).

producers who are not members of a recognised producer organisation. In the case of withdrawals for destinations other than free distribution, they should receive 50% of the maximum amounts fixed. In this context, producers who are not members of a recognised producer organisation should fulfil the same or similar conditions as producer organisations. Therefore, they should be subject, like recognised producer organisations, to the relevant provisions of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011.

- (16) Producer organisations are the basic actors of the fruit and vegetables sector and are the most suited entities to ensure that Union financial assistance for market withdrawals is paid to producers who are not members of a recognised producer organisation. They should ensure that such assistance is paid to the producers who are not members of a recognised producer organisation through the conclusion of a contract. As not all Member States have the same degree of organisation on the supply side of the fruit and vegetables market, it is appropriate to allow the competent authority of the Member States to pay the support directly to the producers where this is duly justified.
- (17) The amounts of the support for non-harvesting and green harvesting should be fixed by Member States per hectare at a level to cover not more than 90 % of the maximum amounts for market withdrawals applicable to withdrawals for destinations other than free distribution as set out in Annex XI to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 or, for products for which no amount has been fixed in that Annex, in this Regulation. For tomatoes for fresh consumption the amount to be taken into account by Member States should be the one set in Annex XI to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 for the period from 1 November until 31 May. Non-harvesting should be supported even where commercial production has been taken from the producing area concerned during the normal production cycle.
- (18) Producer organisations concentrate the supply and are able to act faster than producers who are not members of such organisations when having to cope with greater quantities with an immediate impact on the market. Therefore, in order to make the implementation of the exceptional support measures provided for in this Regulation more efficient and to speed up the stabilisation of the market, it is appropriate, in respect of producers who are members of recognised producer organisations to increase the Union financial assistance for withdrawals for destinations other than free distribution to 75% of the relevant maximum amounts set for the support for withdrawals for other destinations.
- (19) As for withdrawals, Union financial assistance for non-harvesting and green harvesting operations should be extended to producers who are not members of a recognised producer organisation. The financial assistance should be 50% of the maximum amounts of support set for producer organisations.
- (20) Given the high number of producers who are not members of a producer organisation and the need to carry out checks that are reliable but feasible, Union financial assistance should not be granted for green harvesting of fruit and vegetables for which the normal harvest has already begun, and for non-harvesting measures where commercial production has been taken from the producing area concerned during the normal production cycle for producers who are not members of a producer organisation. In this context, producers who are not members of a recognised producer organisation should be subject, like recognised producer organisations, to the relevant

provisions of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011.

- (21) For producers who are not members of a producer organisation, the payment of the Union financial assistance for non-harvesting and green harvesting operations should be done directly by the competent authority of the Member State. That competent authority should pay the relevant amounts to the producers in accordance with Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 and the relevant national rules and procedures.
- (22) In order to guarantee that the Union financial assistance to producers of certain fruits and vegetables is used for the intended purposes and to ensure the efficient use of the Union budget, Member States should carry out a reasonable level of checks. In particular, documentary, identity and physical checks as well as on-the-spot checks should be carried that cover a reasonable amount of products, areas, producer organisations and producers not being members of recognised producer organisation. Member States should ensure that withdrawal, green harvesting and non-harvesting operations for tomatoes only concern varieties intended for fresh consumption.
- (23) Member States should notify the Commission of the operations that have been implemented by producer organisations and producers non-members at regular intervals.
- (24) In order to have an immediate impact on the market and to contribute to stabilise prices, this Regulation should entry into force on the day of its publication,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1
Subject matter and scope

1. This Regulation lays down rules for temporary exceptional Union support measures to be granted to producer organisations in the fruit and vegetables sector recognised in accordance with Article 154 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and to producers who are not members of such organisations.

Those temporary exceptional Union support measures shall cover withdrawal, non-harvesting and green harvesting operations.
2. The support referred to in paragraph 1 shall be granted in relation to the following products of the fruit and vegetables sector intended for fresh consumption:
 - (a) tomatoes of CN code 0702 00 00;
 - (b) carrots of CN code 0706 10 00;
 - (c) cabbages of CN code 0704 90 10;
 - (d) sweet peppers of CN code 0709 60 10;
 - (e) cauliflowers and headed broccoli of CN code 0704 10 00;
 - (f) cucumbers of CN code 0707 00 05;
 - (g) gherkins of CN code 0707 00 90;
 - (h) mushrooms of the genus *Agaricus* of CN code 0709 51 00;
 - (i) apples of CN code 0808 10;

- (j) pears of CN code 0808 30;
 - (k) plums of CN code 0809 40 05;
 - (l) soft fruit of CN codes 0810 20, 0810 30 and 0810 40;
 - (m) fresh table grapes of CN code 0806 10 10;
 - (n) kiwifruit of CN code 0810 50 00;
 - (o) sweet oranges of CN code 0805 10 20;
 - (p) clementines of CN code 0805 20 10;
 - (q) mandarins (including tangerines and satsumas), wilking and similar citrus hybrids of CN codes 0805 20 30, 0805 20 50, 0805 20 70 and 0805 20 90.
3. The support referred to in paragraph 1 shall cover activities carried out in the period from [date of entry into force of this Regulation] until the date on which the quantities set out in Article 2(1) have been exhausted in each Member State concerned or 31 December 2014, whichever is earlier.

Article 2

Allocation of maximum quantities to Member States

1. The support referred to in Article 1(1) shall be made available to Member States for the quantities of products set out in Annex I.
- That support shall also be available in all Member States for withdrawal, green harvesting or non-harvesting operations, with respect to one or more of the products referred to in Article 1(2) as determined by the Member State, provided that the additional quantity involved does not exceed 3 000 tonnes per Member State.
2. With respect to the quantities per Member State referred to in paragraph 1, Member States may determine for each product or group of products the quantities for market withdrawals for free distribution and for market withdrawals for destinations other than free distribution as well as the equivalent area for green harvesting and non-harvesting.
3. Member States may decide by 31 October 2014 not to make use of the quantity of 3 000 tonnes or part thereof. It shall notify the Commission of any quantities not used by 31 October 2014. As from the moment of notification, operations carried out in that Member State shall not be eligible for support under this Regulation.

Article 3

Allocation of the quantities to producers

Member States shall allocate the quantities referred to in Article 2 between producer organisations and producers who are not members of producer organisations following the first come, first served system.

However, Member States may decide to set up a different system for the allocation of quantities, provided the system established is based on objective and non discriminatory criteria. For this purpose, Member States may take into account the extent of the effects of the Russian import ban on the producers concerned.

Article 4

Financial assistance for withdrawals to producer organisations

1. Union financial assistance shall be granted for market withdrawals for free distribution as referred to in Article 34(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and for destinations other than free distribution carried out in relation to the products referred to in Article 1(2) of this Regulation and during the period referred to in Article 1(3) of this Regulation.
2. The 5 % ceiling referred to in Article 34(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and in Article 79(2) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 shall not apply in respect of the products referred to in Article 1(2) of this Regulation when those products are withdrawn during the period referred to in Article 1(3) of this Regulation.
3. For products referred to in Article 1(2) of this Regulation, but not listed in Annex XI to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011, the maximum amounts of support shall be those set out in Annex II to this Regulation.
4. For tomatoes the maximum amount shall be the amount set out in Annex XI to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 for the period 1 November to 31 May.
5. By way of derogation from Article 34(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, the Union financial assistance for market withdrawals for destinations other than free distribution shall be 75% of the maximum amounts of the support for other destinations referred to in Annex XI to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 and in Annex II to this Regulation.
6. The Union financial assistance referred to in paragraph 1 shall be available to producer organisations even if they do not provide for such market withdrawal operations in their operational programmes and in the national strategies of Member States. Article 32(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and Article 55(4) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 shall not apply in relation to Union financial assistance under this Article.
7. The Union financial assistance referred to in paragraph 1 shall not be taken into account for the purpose of calculating the ceilings referred to in Article 34(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013.
8. The ceiling of one third of expenditure referred to in the fourth subparagraph of Article 33(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and the 25 % maximum ceiling for the increase of the operational fund referred to in Article 66(3)(c) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 shall not apply in respect of expenditure incurred for withdrawal operations of products referred to in Article 1(2) of this Regulation when those products are withdrawn during the period referred to in Article 1(3) of this Regulation.
9. Expenditure incurred in accordance with this Article shall form part of the operational fund of the producer organisations.

Article 5

Financial assistance for withdrawals to producers not being members of producer organisations

1. Union financial assistance shall be granted to producers of fruit and vegetables who are not members of a recognised producer organisation in accordance with this Article for:
 - (a) market withdrawals for free distribution as referred to in Article 34(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013;
 - (b) market withdrawals for destinations other than free distribution.

For market withdrawals referred to in point (a) of the first subparagraph, the maximum amounts of the financial assistance shall be the amounts set out in Annex XI to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 and in Annex II to this Regulation.

For tomatoes the maximum amount shall be the amount set out in Annex XI to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 for the period 1 November to 31 May.

For market withdrawals referred to in point (b) of the first subparagraph, the maximum amounts of the financial assistance shall be 50 % of the amounts set out in Annex XI to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 and in Annex II to this Regulation.

For tomatoes that maximum amount shall be 50% of the amount set out in Annex XI to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 for the period 1 November to 31 May.

2. The financial assistance referred to in paragraph 1 shall be available for the withdrawal of the products referred to in Article 1(2) when those products are withdrawn during the period referred to in Article 1 (3).
3. Producers shall conclude a contract with a recognised producer organisation for the entire quantity to be delivered under this Article. Producer organisations shall accept all reasonable requests from producers who are not members of a recognised producer organisation. The quantities delivered by producers not being members shall be consistent with the regional yields and surface concerned.
4. The financial assistance shall be paid to producers not being members of a recognised producer organisation by the producer organisation with which they signed such a contract.

The amounts that correspond to the real costs incurred by the producer organisation for withdrawing the respective products shall be retained by the producer organisation. Evidence of those costs shall be provided by means of invoices.

5. For duly justified reasons, such as the limited degree of organisation of the producers in the Member State concerned, and in a non-discriminatory way, Member States may authorise that a producer not being a member of a recognised producer organisation makes a notification to the competent authority of the Member State, instead of signing the contract referred to in paragraph 3. For such notification, Article 78 of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*. The quantities delivered by producers not being members shall be consistent with the regional yields and surface concerned.

In such cases, the competent authority of the Member State shall pay the Union financial assistance directly to the producer. Member States shall adopt new or apply existing national rules or procedures for this purpose.

6. Where the recognition of a producer organisation has been suspended in accordance with Article 114(2) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011, its members shall be deemed to be producers not being members of a recognised producer organisation for the purpose of this Article.
7. Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011, as well as Article 4(6) to (9) of this Regulation shall apply *mutatis mutandis* in respect of this Article.

Article 6

Financial assistance for non-harvesting and green harvesting to producer organisations

1. Union financial assistance shall be granted in respect of non-harvesting and green harvesting operations carried out in relation to the products referred to in Article 1(2) and during the period referred to in Article 1(3).
2. Support for green harvesting shall cover only the products which are physically on the fields and which are actually green harvested. By way of derogation from Article 85(4) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011, Member States shall set the amounts of the support, comprising both the Union financial assistance and the producer organisation contribution for non-harvesting and green harvesting, per hectare at a level to cover not more than 90 % of the amounts fixed for market withdrawals for destinations other than free distribution in Annex XI to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 and in Annex II to this Regulation. For tomatoes that amount shall be 90% of the amount set out in Annex XI to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 for the period 1 November to 31 May for market withdrawals for destinations other than free distribution.

By way of derogation from Article 34(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, the Union financial assistance for non-harvesting and green harvesting shall be 75% of the amounts fixed by the Member States in accordance with the first subparagraph.

3. By way of derogation from the first subparagraph of Article 85(3) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011, non-harvesting measures referred to in Article 84(1)(b) of that Regulation may, in respect of products referred to in Article 1(2) of this Regulation and during the period referred to in Article 1(3) of this Regulation, be undertaken even where commercial production has been taken from the producing area concerned during the normal production cycle. In such cases, the amounts of support referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article shall be proportionally reduced, taking into account the production already harvested, as established on the basis of stock records and financial accounts of the producer organisations concerned.
4. The Union financial assistance shall be granted even if producer organisations do not provide for those operations in the framework of their operational programme and in the national strategies of Member States. Article 32(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and Article 55(4) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 shall not apply in relation to Union financial assistance under this Article.
5. The ceiling of one third of expenditure referred to in the fourth subparagraph of Article 33(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and the 25 % maximum ceiling for the increase of operational fund referred to in Article 66(3)(c) of Implementing

Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 shall not apply in respect of expenditure incurred for measures referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article and related to products referred to in Article 1(2) of this Regulation and during the period referred to in Article 1(3) of this Regulation.

6. The Union financial assistance shall not be taken into account for the purpose of calculating the ceilings referred to in Article 34(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013.
7. Expenditure incurred in accordance with this Article shall form part of the operational fund of the producer organisations.

Article 7

Financial assistance for non-harvesting and green harvesting to producers not being members of producer organisations

1. Union financial assistance shall be granted to producers who are not members of a recognised producer organisation to carry out non-harvesting and green harvesting operations in respect of the products referred to in Article 1(2) and during the period referred to in Article 1(3).

By way of derogation from Article 85(3) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011, the following shall apply:

- (a) support for green harvesting shall cover only the products which are physically on the fields, which are actually green harvested and for which normal harvest has not begun;
 - (b) non-harvesting measures shall not be undertaken where commercial production has been taken from the area concerned during the normal production cycle;
 - (c) green harvesting and non-harvesting shall in no circumstances both be applied to the same product and the same given area.
2. The amounts of Union financial assistance for non-harvesting and green harvesting operations shall be 50% of the amounts set by Member States in accordance with Article 6(2).
 3. Producers not being members of a recognised producer organisation shall make the appropriate notification to the competent authority of the Member State in accordance with the detailed provisions adopted by the Member State pursuant to Article 85(1)(a) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011.

In such cases, the competent authority of the Member State shall pay the Union financial assistance directly to the producer. Member States shall adopt new or apply existing national rules or procedures for this purpose.

4. Where the recognition of a producer organisation has been suspended in accordance with Article 114(2) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011, its members shall be deemed to be producers not being members of a recognised producer organisation for the purpose of this Article.
5. Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 and Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* in respect of this Article.

Article 8

Checks on withdrawal, non-harvesting and green harvesting operations

1. The withdrawal operations referred to in Articles 4 and 5 shall be subject to first-level checks in accordance with Article 108 of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011. However, those checks shall cover at least 10 % of the quantity of products withdrawn from the market and at least 10% of producer organisations benefiting from the Union financial assistance referred to in Article 4 of this Regulation.

However, for withdrawal operations referred to in Article 5(5), the first-level checks shall cover 100 % of the quantity of products withdrawn.

2. Non-harvesting and green harvesting operations as referred to in Articles 6 and 7 shall be subject to the checks and conditions provided for in Article 110 of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011, except as regards the requirement that no partial harvest has taken place where the derogation provided for in Article 6(3) of this Regulation is applied. Checks shall cover at least 25 % of the producing areas concerned.

For non-harvesting and green harvesting operations referred to in Article 7, the checks shall cover 100 % of the producing areas concerned.

3. The withdrawal operations referred to in Articles 4 and 5 shall be subject to second-level checks in accordance with Article 109 of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011. However, the on-the-spot checks shall cover at least 40% of the entities subject to the first-level checks and at least 5% of the quantity of products withdrawn from the market.
4. Member States shall take the appropriate control measures to ensure that withdrawals, non-harvesting and green harvesting operations for tomatoes only cover varieties intended for fresh consumption.

Article 9

Application for and payment of Union financial assistance

1. Producer organisations shall apply for the payment of the Union financial assistance referred to in Articles 4, 5 and 6 by 31 January 2015.
2. Producer organisations shall apply for the payment of the total Union financial assistance referred to in Article 4 and 6 of this Regulation in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 72 of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 by 31 January 2015.

However, the first paragraph and the first sentence of the second paragraph of Article 72 of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 and the ceiling of 80 % of the initially approved amount of aid in respect of an operational programme laid down in the third paragraph of that Article shall not apply.

3. Producers not being members of a recognised producer organisation and not having signed a contract with a recognised producer organisation shall, by the date referred to in paragraph 1, apply themselves to the competent authorities designated by the Member States for the payment of Union financial assistance for the purposes of Article 5 and 7.

4. The applications referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 shall be accompanied by supporting documents justifying the amount of Union financial assistance concerned and contain a written undertaking that the applicant has not received and will not receive any double Union or national funding or compensation under an insurance policy in respect of the operations qualifying for Union financial assistance under this Regulation.

Article 10
Notifications

1. Member States shall notify the Commission by 30 September 2014, 15 October 2014, 31 October 2014, 15 November 2014, 30 November 2014, 15 December 2014, 31 December 2014, 15 January 2015, 31 January 2015 and 15 February 2015 of the following information for each product:
 - (a) the quantities withdrawn for free distribution;
 - (b) the quantities withdrawn for destinations other than free distribution;
 - (c) the equivalent area for green harvesting and non-harvesting;
 - (d) the total expenditure incurred for the quantities and areas referred to in points (a), (b) and (c).

Only operations that have been implemented shall be included in the notifications.

For those notifications Member States shall use the template set out in Annex III

2. When making their first notification, Member States shall notify the Commission of the amounts of support fixed by them in accordance with Article 79(1) or 85(4) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 543/2011 and Articles 4 and 5 of this Regulation, using the templates set out in Annex IV.

Article 11

Payment of Union financial assistance

Member States' expenditure in relation to the payments under this Regulation shall only be eligible for Union financial assistance if it has been paid by 30 June 2015.

Article 12

Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 29.9.2014

For the Commission
The President
[...]