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**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

**Group III "Various Interests" Seminar**

**Tuesday 7 July 2015**

**9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on:**

**"The impact of current EU-Russia relations**

**on the Agri-food sector"**

SCANDIC MARINA CONGRESS CENTER

Katajanokanlaituri 6 – Helsinki

**9.00** **Registration**

**9.30 Welcome remarks:**

* **Luca JAHIER**, President of Group III "Various Interests", EESC

**9.45 Statement on behalf of the Government of Finland:**

* **Paula Lehtomäki**,State Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office

**10.15** **Morning Session: Chaired by Seppo KALLIO**,Member of the Bureau of the Various Interests Group (EESC)

* **Antti Sahi,** Secretary General of MTK -*"The Agri-trade challenges for Finnish Farmers"*
* **Willi SCHULZ-GREVE**, Head of Unit "Analysis of trade and internationalpolicies", DG AGRI, EU Commission*- "Agricultural trade today – the EU position in the current market situation"*
* **Pekka Pesonen** Secretary General of COPA-COCEGA -*"The impact of Russian sanctions on agricultural trade –– how and where to identify new markets for the EU farming sector"*
* **Raul Lönnström,** CEOVALIO Russia *(Finnish dairy cooperatives)* **–** *"The experiences of Valio in trading with Russia in the dairy sector: how to succeed in a turbulent business environment"*
* **Jyrki Niemi,** Professor at theLUKE-Natural Resources Institute of Finland **–** *"The impact of difficulties in EU-Russia trade relations on the Finnish foodstuffs sector"*

*Questions and answers*

**1– 2.30 Lunch hosted by Luca Jahier, President of the Various Interests Group**

**2.30 Afternoon Session: Chaired by Kaul NURM,** Member of the Various Interests Group (EESC)

* **Ilkka Saarinen,** Deputy Director General, External Economic Relations, Ministry for Foreign Affairs – *"The EU-Russia trade situation in the WTO context"*
* **Matti AHO**, Director General of EVIRA (Finnish Food Safety Authority) – *"Reality vs. theory; building export control system for food exports to Russia and Custom Unions”*
* **Mindaugas MACIULEVIČIUS,** Director of the Agricultural Cooperative of Lithuania, Board member of Lithuanian Association of Agricultural Cooperatives "Kooperacijos kelias" and Member of the Various Interests Group (EESC) - *"Overview of Baltic dairy sector situation and possible way out"*
* **Tuomas FORSBERG**, Professor of International Relations, School of Management University of Tampere **–** *"An overview of EU/Russia relations"*

*Questions and answers*

**4.30 Concluding observations**

* **Seppo KALLIO**, Member of the Bureau of the "Various Interests", EESC

**5.00 End of business**

