



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate B. Quality, Research & Innovation, Outreach
The Director

Brussels, 12.03.2020
AGRI.DDG1.B.1/CLG D(2020)1706997

Subject: COVID 19 outbreak – promotion programmes

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

Following requests for information about the implications of the COVID 19 outbreak on promotion programmes for agriculture products and in view of the difficulties experienced by grant beneficiaries in implementing parts of their projects, please find below some information on how to deal with questions from grant beneficiaries. The Commission's executive agency Chafea is currently preparing an update of the frequently asked questions and answers published on its website to include this issue.

In reference to the Grant Agreement for the Promotion of Agricultural Products, and in particular to its article 33.1 "Suspension of the Action Implementation, by the beneficiary", the beneficiary may suspend implementation of the action or any part of it, if exceptional circumstances – in particular force majeure (see Article 35) – make implementation impossible or excessively difficult.

The difficulties faced by beneficiaries in organising events consecutively to the COVID 19 outbreak can be considered as an exceptional circumstance as defined in Article 35 of the Grant Agreement. We therefore advise to invite the beneficiaries to follow the procedure as described in Article 33.1.2 of the Grant Agreement.

Every Member State will have its own advisory as regards events in view of the COVID19 outbreak that may impact grant beneficiaries. For your information, the Commission's executive agency Chafea currently advises grant beneficiaries for multi programmes to postpone events planned until April 13 or to explore the possibility of carrying out these activities remotely, when feasible. To enable Chafea to conduct the case-by-case analysis, Chafea is asking beneficiaries for the information in the table below.

We would suggest that Member States also request beneficiaries of simple programmes to send an update on the state of play of the impacted activities to the competent authorities of the Member State via email by using the table below. That will allow the competent authority to carry out a case-by-case analysis.

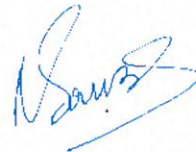
Grant number :

Subject:

Meeting/event purpose, date, venue
Expected amount of participation
Short description and relevance of the event/meeting to reach the objectives of the project
Alternative measures proposed for this event/meeting
Estimated costs and type of costs for the cancellation/postponement of the meeting
Possible postponement date

We will keep you duly informed of any developments on this issue and send you further guidelines as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Nathalie SAUZE- VANDEVYVER