



Dear Commissioner,

The spread of COVID-19 is causing a major challenge, which affects the whole world. Our European agriculture is one main pillar to maintain the daily and secured life of our citizens. The severe period we are currently going through should help us rethink our tools to answer the crises.

We are very much concerned that the opportunity concerning the needed shift towards a robust European agricultural model with a clear European framework as well as measures on protecting climate and environment will be missed. In the interest of farmers, consumers and citizens of Europe, we must shift to a sustainable system which is more resilient to systemic threats - be they environmental, medical, economic, or societal.

In this respect, your Commission has made the Green Deal its overarching political plan to ensure that the European Union reaches its climate targets. The **Farm to Fork Strategy**, as its translation for the food and farming sector, aims to reflect the ongoing sustainable transformation of food systems. We welcome both initiatives. But if we want this food policy approach to be integrated and effective, the Common Agricultural Policy will need to be fully in line with these initiatives.

As Commissioner Wojciechowski recently stated, "the CAP reform proposal as it stands now, will not be sufficient to reach the targets of the Green Deal ». It is also the message put forward by 3600 scientists from Europe, who argue in a recent study¹ that the current CAP is failing in terms of climate, biodiversity and land degradation. Nevertheless, they are of the opinion that your proposal for a CAP post-2020 could create a momentum to enhance sustainability.

In this context, we believe it to be the responsibility of the Commission to make a proposal in that direction. We therefore urge you, as the President of the Commission, to take this step so that the proposed text is fully in line with the Green Deal ambitions. Would want a scenario in which the new CAP ends up less environmentally friendly than the current one?

As pro-Europeans, we are well aware of the importance of the CAP in the early days of the European Union, back in 1962. We are of the opinion that it should now be at the heart of the European renewal. To make this happen, it is the responsibility of the Commission to ensure a common European approach and progress. This would require:

- a) **EU level “net” targets and quantifiable indicators** to describe concrete and binding targets achievable by the end of the next CAP. Those should be as follows;
1. Reduction of 80 % of the use of chemical pesticides;
 2. Reduction of 80 % of the use of chemical fertilizers;
 3. Reduction of 100% of prophylactic and metaphylactic use of antibiotics in animal farming;
 4. 30% of European agricultural land in organic farming;

¹ https://www.birdlife.org/europe-and-central-asia/news/press-release-3600-scientists-eu-common-agricultural-policy-must-stop-destroying-nature_09March2020



5. Increase of 10% of soil capacity to sequester carbon through the clay-humus complex;
6. Increase of 20 % of surface of permanent grassland;
7. A halt of the decrease of the number of European farms;
8. 10% of European UAA devoted to natural habitats
9. 100% of the total protein feed produced is self-produced no more imports;
10. 50% decrease of long-distance (8+ hours) live animal transports.

b) **Ex-ante checks** to ensure that Member States propose effective interventions on climate, environment, animal welfare and biodiversity.

d) **Ex-post checks** to measure the impact on the ground not only at the end of programming period but also as part of the **mid-term review** to check if the national objectives and EU targets are met.

e) **Strong conditionality** of funds to ensure that no taxpayers' money is used in practice with proven negative impact on environment, public health or animal welfare (mandatory crop rotation, maximum in livestock density...).

With an overall budget of 35% of the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, the CAP will largely influence the EU farming sector depending on where and how this budget is spent. Changing this sector without changing the CAP is not possible. We believe the solution lies in a Green Deal which would set clear and consistent targets to every sectors of our economy. In this context, the CAP must become the "Just transition fund for farmers".

We count on the Commission to ensure that its own policies are in line with the overarching Green Deal it has brought on to the agenda. In return, you can count on us to help you to achieve this crucial mission. Together, we have the power to bring about the change our agriculture, farmers and consumers expect.

Yours sincerely,

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