



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Director-General

Brussels , 08/01/2021
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Dear Dr. Pe'er,

Thank you very much for the open letter. The Commission services have taken due note of your analysis and recommendations, which concur largely with our own analysis published recently in the form of a factsheet and a Q&A.

Both, the Council and the Parliament have now set out their respective positions regarding the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), proposed by the Commission in 2018. In the negotiations on the new CAP, the Commission will play a role of an honest broker as well as a driver for greater sustainability.

Certain aspects of these positions do not match the ambition proposed by the Commission or of the Green Deal. The Commission is now working together with the European Parliament and with the Council to secure a swift agreement on a truly reformed CAP. The new CAP needs to be fit for purpose and to put the agricultural sector on the track of greater sustainability, resilience and prosperity. It has to ensure a fair income of farmers, support the agricultural sector to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions, help farmers face climate change and biodiversity loss, and allow European food to become the global standard of sustainability. Above all, the CAP has to ensure that agriculture stops being an important driver of biodiversity loss.

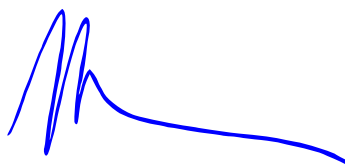
Finally, I want to draw your attention to the fact that - as announced in the recent Farm to Fork Strategy - the Commission has published recommendations to each Member State with regard to the future CAP Strategic Plans, centred around its nine specific objectives, paying particular attention to the targets of the Green Deal and the ambition to move towards a sustainable food system.

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In that context, I would like to invite you to actively participate in the related discussions at Member State level, as well as engaged in the debate on forthcoming initiatives listed in the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategy action plans.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'W' followed by a horizontal line that tapers to the right.

Wolfgang BURTSCHER