



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Director-General

Brussels, 07/12/2020
AGRI.DDG1.C.1/MMM/ 7878978

Ref.: Your e-mail dated 01/11/2020

Dear Madam, Sir,

Thank you for your email of 1 November 2020 to President von der Leyen. The Commission services have taken due note of your common plea for a sustainable agricultural policy.

The European Commission is engaged in negotiations with both the European Parliament and the Council on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in the coming months.

Both the Council and the Parliament have now set out their respective positions regarding the reform of the CAP proposed by the Commission in 2018. Certain aspects of these positions may prima facie raise doubts on the capacity of the CAP to contribute to the environmental and climate goals that the Union has set. The Commission is determined to play its full role in these negotiations. Not only to work relentlessly towards a good compromise, but also as driving force to deliver on the Green Deal objectives.

A good compromise would mean a **CAP** that **ensures food security** and a **fair income for farmers**, but equally **delivers climate and biodiversity objectives** in a far more effective and decisive manner than in the current period. A good compromise will tangibly reward farmers that integrate biodiversity, environmental protection and climate-friendly practices into their daily work. It should enable the CAP to be a key driver of the real change that we all agree must happen.

In addition, as announced in the recent Farm to Fork Strategy, the Commission is preparing **recommendations to each Member State** with regard to the future CAP Strategic Plans, centred around its nine specific objectives, paying particular attention to the **Green Deal targets** and the ambition to move towards a sustainable food system.

In 2021, the Commission will present an action plan on organic farming, which aims in particular to stimulate demand for organic products, in addition to support for

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maintenance of and conversion to organic farming provided by the CAP to achieve a target of 25% organic farming in the European Union in 2030.

Finally, I would like to invite you to continue to participate actively in the discussions at Member State level and in Sicily in the context of the preparation of the national CAP Strategic Plan for Italy.

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