



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Director-General

Brussels
AGRI.DDG1.C.1/MM/(2021)3734370

Subject: Please withdraw the CAP

Dear Petitioner,

Thank you for your emails to President von der Leyen. The Commission services have taken due note of the information you have provided and the President has requested me to reply on her behalf.

The Commission is engaged in intensive negotiations with the European Parliament and the Council on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). In these negotiations, the Commission is not only playing its role as honest broker of an agreement, but also as a driver for greater sustainability in European agriculture, in line with the European Green Deal.

The Council and the Parliament have set out their negotiating positions on the reform of the CAP, but unfortunately, certain aspects of these positions do neither match the ambition of the 2018 Commission proposal nor of the Green Deal. The Commission is working hard to ensure the future CAP puts the agricultural sector on track of greater sustainability, resilience and prosperity. With the negotiations in its final stage, I believe we are close to reaching a compromise that will support a fairer income for farmers, help them to reduce greenhouse gas emissions substantially, and reverse biodiversity loss. Therefore, the Commission does not intend to withdraw its CAP proposals, as this would merely consolidate the status quo for years to come. We are keen to move forward and turn the CAP into a tool that helps European food become the global standard of sustainability.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that - as announced in the recent Farm to Fork Strategy - the Commission has adopted recommendations to each Member State¹ with regard to the future CAP Strategic Plans. These recommendations pay particular attention to the targets of the Green Deal and the ambition to move towards a sustainable food system. I would like to invite you to participate actively in the discussions at Member State level on these CAP Strategic Plans, which are scheduled to be submitted to the Commission by the end of the year, as ambitious Strategic Plans are an essential element of a sustainable agricultural policy.

Yours faithfully,

p.o. Mihail DUMITRU
in absence of Wolfgang BURTSCHER

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2473

