



Brussels, 30. 10. 2020  
Ares (2020)6030234

*Dear Members of the European Parliament,*

*Thank you for your letter of 28 October in which you ask for the withdrawal of the proposals for the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), essentially on grounds of what you consider to be the inability of such proposals, as currently amended by the co-legislators, to deliver on the climate and environmental ambitions of the European Green Deal.*

*The Commission will express itself in more detail in the coming weeks. I would like, however, to make it clear from the outset that the Commission – notwithstanding the challenge that this represents, remains convinced that the negotiation process, if underpinned by a joint determination to honour our collective commitment towards sustainability, can result in a new CAP that is fit for purpose. I am therefore not considering a withdrawal.*

*Like any major legislative initiative, the success of the CAP Reform requires the full engagement of the Commission, the Parliament and the Council, both in terms of their respective prerogatives and responsibilities.*

*As you point out, the CAP reform proposal was adopted under the previous Commission mandate. In line with the principle of institutional continuity, the new Commission endorsed it, notwithstanding that the European Green Deal cast a new light on the compelling necessity of the new CAP to deliver results that are commensurate with our new collective ambition. This spring we specified in the Farm to Fork and the Biodiversity Strategies a number of clear objectives that we should attain to contribute to a more sustainable and healthy food system. We also concluded that such objective should be embedded in the new CAP, and that the Commission proposal would be apt to deliver these results.*

*./..*

*MEP Bas Eickhout*

*MEP Ska Keller*

*MEP Philippe Lamberts*

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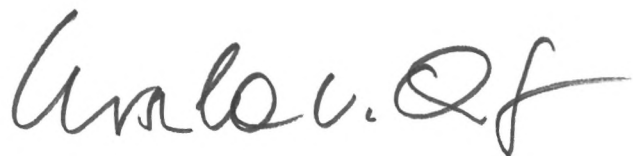
*Both the Council and the Parliament have now set out their respective positions regarding the CAP Reform. Certain aspects of these positions may prima facie raise doubts on the capacity of such a CAP to produce the results that we agree upon. It is nonetheless our democratic duty to work relentlessly towards a good compromise taking into account all legitimate interests, in full respect of our different opinions, but also in full awareness of our collective commitment to deliver on the Green Deal objectives.*

*A good compromise would mean in my view that we agree on a new CAP that ensures food security and a fair income for farmers, but equally delivers for 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, and happen now.*

*I trust that we have very similar ideas on what a good compromise would be for an effective green architecture, notably with regard to eco-schemes, conditionality and the budget for climate and biodiversity in rural development. We may just have a different opinion on how to get there. In the coming weeks I will indicate in detail what elements of the CAP Reform are essential for the European Commission, if we are to honour our shared ambitions about climate, environment and a fair farming income.*

*Rest assured that the Commission is determined to play its full role in the trilogue negotiations, not only as a honest broker between the co-legislators, but also as a driving force for greater sustainability and as guardian of the ambition that we are confident the current proposal can deliver. I very much welcome your active involvement in ensuring that we will have a CAP that meets farmers' needs and society's expectations and count on your constructive support to collectively achieve this.*

*Yours sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'U. von der Leyen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

*Ursula von der Leyen*