JANUSZ WOJCIECHOWSKI
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
AGRICULTURE

RUE DE LA LOI, 200
B-1049 BRUSSELS
TEL. + 32-2 295 02 20
JANUSZ.WOJCIECHOWSKI@EC.EUROPA.EU

Brussels,
(2022) 8953756

Dear Madams, Sirs,

Thank you for your open letter of 7 December 2021 expressing, as a coalition of civil society organisations, concerns about the content of draft CAP Strategic Plans you had seen so far and outlining your expectations towards the Commission for securing ambition in the assessment and approval process. Other addressees of your appeal, Executive Vice-President Timmermans, Vice-President Šuica and Commissioners Kyriakides, Sinkevičius and Hahn have asked me to reply also on their behalf.

First, I would like to convey to all the organisations of your coalition our appreciation for the steadfast commitment and engagement in the process of reforming the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the efforts you have taken to contribute to designing the CAP Strategic Plans in your respective countries.

I regret to learn that you feel that your voice has not always been heard in this process. Let me reassure you that the Commission attaches great importance to the areas mentioned in your letter: the 'non-backsliding' requirement, the quality of eco-schemes, the redistribution aspects, the application of the social conditionality, and, notably, the potential of the CAP Strategic Plans to contribute to the transition envisaged in the European Green Deal. I also take good note of the specific cases illustrating your concerns.

Austrian Civil Society Organisations working on the CAP (Austria)
Agroecology In Action, ImPAACte (Belgium – Wallonia)
Flemish Civil Society Organisations working on the CAP (Belgium – Flanders)
The Society for Territorial and Environmental Prosperity (Bulgaria)
Pour une autre PAC (France)
Cambiamo Agricoltura (Italy)
Environmental Pillar (Ireland)
Koalicja Żywa Ziemia (Poland)
Por Otra PAC (Spain)

Email : aurelie.catallo@pouruneautrepac.eu

With the submission of the CAP Strategic Plans, the assessment and approval process has just started. It will be conducted in an in-depth and evidence-based manner along the criteria set in the legislation. The Commission is determined to ensure the best outcome in light of problems and needs of each Member State and to make the CAP a driving force towards more sustainable and socially responsible food systems. To this end, and to provide the broadest perspective possible, within the Commission we are working in close interdepartmental collaboration, both at political and technical level.

I would also reiterate the Commission's commitment to transparency during the approval process so that the public stay well informed about the overall level of ambition of the CAP Strategic Plans. First, by publishing on a dedicated website general information on the state of play of the process and an overall assessment of Member States' efforts based on the submitted and then approved CAP plans. Second, by making public the observation letters containing the assessment of the proposed CAP Strategic Plans. I trust these steps will further contribute to debates on the proposed solutions and choices and to a better understanding and acceptance of the approved CAP Strategic Plans, both within the farming community and the society at large, and will pave the way for their effective implementation.

We thank you for your continued dedication and involvement in the transition of EU agriculture.

Yours faithfully,



Janusz WOJCIECHOWSKI