

Dear commissioner,

The agricultural sector is paying for the consequences of the Covid-19 crisis and many producers are already in a very weak situation, which is endangering the continuation of their activities. This crisis has a strong economic impact, which will go beyond the confinement period for many professionals who are struggling to overcome these difficult times and who have already lost important market outlets.

As Members of the European Parliament, we welcome the flexibilities adopted by the European Commission to help farmers overcome the crisis, but we regret that the financial support approved until now has been very limited and only orientated to few agricultural sectors.

On the 27th of May, the European Commission has adopted its proposal on the New Generation UE budget, including an amount of 15 billion euros for the Rural Development policy. Although the financial provisions proposed for the next MFF are more ambitious than the ones announced in 2018, they do not compensate the reduction of the support compared to the current period.

According to the European Commission initial proposal, the 15 billion euros would only be available as of 2022 once the new strategic plans are in place in order to make a link with the new environmental objectives. This comes now against the background of the recent inter-institutional agreement on the CAP transition regulation that will arrange a two-year transition between the current CAP and the future one.

The undersigned consider unacceptable if this new allocation would remain directly connected with the new strategic plans since, as you know, they would not be in place before 2023. This would delay by two years the use of such a temporary financial instrument and mean that the EU would have lost the opportunity to help the farmers in due time and avoid many possible bankrupts.

The current CAP already contains sufficient tools to start preparing farmers for the transition promoted under the new Green Deal as from 2021, particularly through the agri-environmental measures of the Rural Development chapter, and, therefore, we do not consider it necessary to wait until the adoption of the new strategic plans.

We expect that this is also a matter of concern for you, and, therefore, we ask you to do your utmost to find a solution in the negotiations of the next MFF.

We would also like to stress again the fact that the Agricultural sector is a strategic one and that the CAP budget should meet the ambitions of the EU in the framework of the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies.

We thank you very much for your attention,

Yours sincerely,

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