



JOINT STATEMENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL CHAMBERS OF V4 COUNTRIES,
extended by Lithuania, Bulgaria and Romania
on the future of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

We, the representatives of farmers of V4 countries, extended by Lithuania, Bulgaria and Romania representing Agricultural Chambers from the "Three Seas Region" discussed on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "The Future of Food and Farming" published on 29th November 2017.

We request to respect our requirements regarding CAP after 2020 as stated in Bratislava Declaration of 31st March 2017. We highlight following requirements, and therefore we:

- 1) **STRESS** the need for a strong CAP after 2020 with appropriate financial resources in order to secure our farmers' economic viability and to be able to fulfil the economic, environmental and social dimensions of sustainability.
- 2) **INSIST** on the preservation of direct income support with active farmers with farming as a main source of income being the primary CAP beneficiaries. Direct payments and especially SPS ensures stability and secures liquidity for farmers. They proved to have played an essential role in ensuring farming sustainability and the maintenance of viable food production.
- 3) **INSIST**, that common financial resources cannot be replaced by national co-financing.
- 4) **STRESS** that capping of direct payments should be based on voluntary choice of Member States.



- 5) **STRESS** that the new delivery model of direct payments may result in financial risk in case of late approval of Strategic Plans by the Commission. **UNDERLINE** that in this case Member States need legal warranty to continuously pay direct payments in order to avoid negative impacts caused by lack of direct support.
- 6) In order to ensure effectivity in allocating the CAP resources we strongly **REQUEST** that the position of farmers in the food chain should be strengthened. Today farmers are the weakest part of the chain, although they bear the highest risk.
- 7) **UNDERLINE** the need for maintaining and increasing voluntary coupled support, which plays an essential role in maintaining agricultural activities in sensitive sectors. Therefore, this payment should be retained and backed by efficient financial resources.
- 8) **SUPPORT** a financially strong and diverse second CAP pillar. However, we **INSIST** on the maintenance of non-refundable investment supports which are key drivers in the spread of innovative technologies. **UNDERLINE** that refundable support and other financial instruments can be used only on a complementary basis.
- 9) **DEEM** necessary to set a maximum percentage of co-financing of the second Pillar as well as harmonising the extent of state aid across the EU.
- 10) **REQUEST** to create suitable conditions for farming in the areas facing natural constrains. Any level of degressive payment scheme should be in the competence of individual member states.
- 11) **SUPPORT** the need of providing special support for small farmers.
- 12) **CALL ATTENTION** to the fact that CAP should support generational renewal at all levels.
- 13) **AKNOWLEDGE** the importance of environmental friendly measures within the CAP, as a key element of sustainable farming and dealing with natural resources. However, to achieve sustainability goals, we **SUGGEST** these measures to be more consistent within the two pillars, less burdensome and more flexible.



- 14) Chambers CALL UPON the European decision makers to ensure a fair balance between farmers' needs and sustainability when designing a new, modern and simplified CAP.

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