



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Director-General

Brussels , 29/10/2020.  
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Dear Mr Wates,

Thank you for sharing valuable thoughts on the need to align the CAP reform proposal to the Green Deal priorities, in your letter of 30 September 2020. President von der Leyen ask me to reply on her behalf.

Together with other EU policies, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) will play a key role in reaching the Green Deal objectives. As elaborated in the Staff Working Document "Analysis of links between CAP reform and Green Deal" of 20 May, the Commission believes that its CAP reform proposal of 2018 contains a framework and individual elements that are very much in line with the push for greater overall sustainability, set out in the European Green Deal and its associated strategies such as the Farm to Fork Strategy and the Biodiversity Strategy.

The analysis concludes that the CAP reform proposal has the potential to accommodate the Green Deal's ambitions. However, the capacity of the future CAP to accommodate the ambition will depend on the final compromise reached. It requires a suitable share of the EU budget devoted to each pillar of the CAP and maintenance of key green provisions of the Commission's proposal in the final legislation. This makes the current approval work by the co-legislators and future trilogues vital.

The success of the approach set out in the Commission's proposal relies substantially on the quality of the CAP Strategic Plans, which Member States will draw up, taking advantage of significant flexibility afforded them. This is a deliberate departure from the past, in which approaches based more on detailed EU-level rules struggled to take adequate account of varying national, regional, and local circumstances and sometimes yielded sub-optimal results.

With a view to strengthening the strategic nature of the implementation of the future CAP and ensuring that the CAP Strategic Plans fully support the transition provided for in the European Green Deal, the Commission is engaged in a structured dialogue with the Member States for preparation of their CAP Strategic Plan, before the formal submission of said plans.

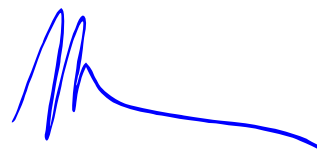
Jeremy WATES  
Secretary General of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB)  
[secretarygeneral@eeb.org](mailto:secretarygeneral@eeb.org)

In this framework, the Commission will provide recommendations based on its analysis of the situation of each Member State in respect of agriculture and rural development as seen through the prism of the nine CAP specific objectives, and will focus specifically on the challenges set out in the European Green Deal.

Furthermore, the CAP is not the only policy tool to help EU's farming and food sectors reflect the ambitions of the Green Deal: the Farm to Fork Strategy set out points for action under various policies including research policy, as the above-mentioned sectors must be armed with cutting-edge science to respond to the world's evolving needs. Following the food systems approach, the strategy address all actors and take action to ensure our transition to sustainable food systems.

I trust we will have other opportunities to exchange views during this process and I look forward to that.

Yours sincerely,



Wolfgang BURTSCHER