

**JOINT STATEMENT OF THE V4 PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES ON
AGRICULTURE**
**on the necessity of transparency in the approval process of CAP Strategic
Plans, on ensuring the operation of the new delivery model and on the
current challenges concerning CAP**
Budapest, 8 December 2021

I. In relation to the adoption of the CAP legislative package, we jointly

- (1) ACCEPT the political agreement achieved with the co-legislators in June 2021, which establishes the balance of all three pillars of sustainability, while also addressing related environmental and climate challenges in the most effective way.
- (2) POINT OUT our shared concern that the protracted CAP reform negotiations and late adoption of the legislative package place significant time pressure on Member States due to the obligation to observe the 1 January 2022 submission deadline for CAP Strategic Plans. Therefore, we are ASKING for the flexibility of the Commission, if and when necessary.
- (3) CALL ON the Commission to do its utmost to ensure the soonest possible adoption of the EU implementation rules, which are indispensable for the approval of national CAP Strategic Plans and are also critical for the paying agencies for providing the timely definition of accreditation criteria in relation to the new CAP (and thus the timely payment of funds). The Member States need an appropriate time framework to adopt the necessary national legislation and set up the relevant administrative systems.

II. In relation to the approval process of the CAP Strategic Plans, we jointly

- (4) AGREE that the evaluation process is one of the most important and most vulnerable stages that precede the approval and amendment of CAP Strategic Plans, and we EMPHASISE that the approval process of the plans must be fair, objective and transparent.
- (5) CALL UPON the Commission to observe the final text of Chapter III of Title V of the Regulation on CAP Strategic Plans approved by the co-legislators and to solely base the decisions of the approval process on legal acts that are legally binding for the Member States in order to ensure legal certainty.
- (6) STRESS that in the spirit of subsidiarity, political decisions on the realisation and extent of the CAP objectives included in the national strategic plans must remain under the exclusive competence of Member States.
- (7) WELCOME the fact that the time provided to the Commission for the approval of strategic plans has been reduced to 6 months; however, WE STRESS that it is highly important to ensure the most effective utilisation of this timeframe to avoid the risk of delay in launching the implementation of the new CAP.
- (8) CALL UPON the Commission to be a constructive partner in the rapid approval of CAP Strategic Plans by ensuring ongoing discourse with Member States and regularly publishing all of its observations and questions in the form of “rolling reviews”. This

would allow for the better utilisation of the resources of Member States and ensure optimal time management. In this regard, WE STRESS that the detailed rules of the so-called “stop-the-clock” mechanism (on suspending the deadline) must support this approach.

- (9) CALL UPON the Commission to regularly inform the Council on the approval process of the CAP Strategic Plans, including the achievement of the EU-level objectives, furthermore, we CALL UPON the Presidency of the Council to organise regular discussions as part of the meetings of the Special Committee on Agriculture.
- (10) STRESS that the finalisation of the institutional structure of the national implementation system is a complex and time-consuming task. Therefore, WE CALL ON the Commission to take these exceptional circumstances into consideration during the initial evaluation of the submitted national CAP Strategic Plans.
- (11) CONCLUDE that in light of the time required for the preparation of the national-level implementation framework (the formulation of national legislation, the establishment of the integrated administration and control system, the communication campaign targeting farmers etc.), the timely approval of CAP Strategic Plans is an indispensable requirement for ensuring the legal certainty of initial payments in 2023.

III. In relation to the implementation of the new delivery model, we jointly

- (12) DRAW ATTENTION to another shared concern, namely the implementation of the new delivery model (NDM), which, although intended to provide a greater level of flexibility for Member States, may also entail a greater administrative burden due to the novel delivery approach.
- (13) COUNT ON the co-operation of the Commission in ensuring that the new delivery model is implemented in a way that would truly contribute to simplifying the CAP.
- (14) SHARE the view that a functional new delivery model must be based on the following:
 - the Commission must make use of the potential advantages of a single audit approach and obtain assurances concerning the work of the certification body;
 - for the sake of legal certainty, there must be a clear, objective set of rules in cases when the predetermined values – such as unit amounts or milestones – are not achieved during delivery, necessitating explanations, action plans or corrective measures;
- (15) CALL UPON the Commission to take this statement into consideration during the finalisation of secondary legislation and the approval of CAP Strategic Plans.

IV. In relation to the current challenges concerning CAP, we jointly

- (16) CALL ON the European Union, in view of the rise in the prices of production inputs, particularly feed and fertilisers, to intervene in order to stabilize the prices of the fertilisers themselves, as well as of the ingredients used in their production. This applies in particular to the price of natural gas, which must be substantially reduced through such intervention.
- (17) BELIEVE that the New Green Deal has a chance of success if proper financing is provided to encourage farmers to implement its assumptions. The conditions for implementation must be the same for all EU countries. This also concerns the issue of limiting the use of pesticides and artificial fertilisers, where a single standard

should be established regarding their use. We BELIEVE that in order for the New Green Deal to be successful, it is necessary to secure the borders of the European Union against the influx of cheaper food of lower quality that does not meet the standards required by the European Union, which could threaten food security.

- (18) In view of the current global economic crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and the breakdown of supply chains, we REQUEST a review of the implementation schedule contained in the Green Deal, as it has the potential to cause a sharp drop in farmers' incomes and jeopardise food security.
- (19) Regarding the direct payments, we BELIEVE that if all countries have the same obligations, they should also have the same rights, including the same direct payments.
- (20) Once again, WE ARE ASKING for a joint effort to combat African Swine Fever (ASF). It is necessary to introduce financial support mechanisms within the framework of state aid for pig producers who are suffering losses as a result of the occurrence of ASF. This aid should not be classified as unlawful. In addition, we PROPOSE the introduction of regulations which ensure that tested meat - and therefore safe meat - from the endangered zone (the so-called red zone) is treated in processing as meat from ASF-free zones.

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