

European Commission
Ms Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

- sent via e-mail -

Brussels, 13 November 2020

Subject: CAP reform - Contradictory signals by the European Commission

Dear President,
dear Ms von der Leyen,

we write to you on behalf of the EPP Members of the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development concerning the on-going interinstitutional negotiations on the CAP reform. We note with great concern that contradictory positions are being taken by the European Commission regarding this highly important process.

In your letter to the European Greens of 30 October 2020, you clearly state that the Commission is not considering a withdrawal of the CAP reform proposal. On that, you have our full support, not least because both the Council and EP have already taken positions on it.

Some of the views recently expressed by Executive Vice President Timmermans call into question central elements of the European Parliament's position on the CAP reform in terms of environmental and climate sustainability. He has now publically threatened to withdraw the Commission's proposal if he personally considers the level of ambition to be insufficient on these elements. Those remarks are clearly not in line with your recent letter and with the assurances made when the new Commission was confirmed a year ago. It is difficult to reconcile such a position with the proper functioning of the EU's decision-making process and it would lack democratic legitimacy.

It is unacceptable for us. It does not respect the co-legislators. A Vice President of the European Commission must respect the decisions made by Council and Parliament. Indeed, the role of the Commission in the trilogue negotiations must be to facilitate an agreement between the EP and Council, not to push its own political priorities.

We ask that the normal decision-making procedures be respected, that the Commission act as a collegiate body, and that individual views of Members of the College, no matter how passionately felt, do not undermine effective interinstitutional co-operation.

Yours sincerely

Herbert Dorfmann MEP
EPP AGRI Coordinator

Juan Ignacio Zoido MEP
EPP AGRI Vice-Coordinator

Norbert Lins MEP
Chair of the EP AGRI Committee

Peter Jahr MEP
EPP Rapporteur on CAP

Anne Sander MEP
EPP Rapporteur on CAP