

Memorandum - Future MFF - CAP

Ministers of agriculture from Finland – France – Greece – Ireland – Portugal – Spain

Madrid, 31st of May 2018

- 1- EMPHASIZE that the Common Agricultural Policy contributes to making European Union one of the world's leading agri-food powers. Thanks to the CAP, the EU ensures a secure supply and meets high sanitary and environmental standards, at reasonable costs allowing European agricultural products to be competitive on international markets.
- 2- RECOGNIZE that the European agricultural and agri-food sectors opened to international markets are exposed to the increasing volatility of world prices.
- 3- CONSIDER that the Common Agricultural Policy should continue to be market-oriented but ARE AWARE that support for the EU agriculture contributes to limiting the effects of price volatility and reducing the impact of external factors on the vulnerable agricultural markets.
- 4- RECOGNIZE that the mechanisms implemented by the CAP have a direct impact on farmers' income, which remains lower than those in other sectors. In this context, RECALL that the CAP is the first safety net for farmers.
- 5- STRESS that European agriculture faces new challenges, due to high societal expectations, particularly in the areas of environment, fight against climate change, protection of biodiversity and health - all reinforcing the need for an ambitious reform of the available CAP tools.
- 6- AFFIRM that these challenges can only be met at a European Union level, allowing the European farms to develop their resilience, increase their competitiveness, and ensure the renewal of generations.
- 7- EMPHASIZE on the need to ensure fair competition between Member States and to reach a fair balance between, on the one hand, common objectives and tools and, on the other hand, the need for flexibility in their implementation at national level. A common basis of conditionality reflecting the main objectives of the CAP will have to be established for the allocation of support. The greatest attention should be paid to simplification issues under both pillars of the CAP, and especially the conditionality.
- 8- EMPHASIZE that the CAP enables to maintain an agricultural activity in all territories of Europe. It thus contributes to the vitality of rural areas, including the outermost regions and the islands, and to European integration.
- 9- HIGHLY REGRET that the Commission has proposed for the future multiannual financial framework 2021-2027 a reduction of the CAP budget.
- 10- RECALL that this decrease on both pillars would undoubtedly threaten the viability of European farms, the income of farmers and their ability to meet the citizen requirements for a healthy, sustainable, affordable and quality food as well as protection of environment and adaptation to climate change.

11- REQUEST that the CAP budget be increased to bring it back to the current EU-27 level, which would successfully allows farmers to address the economic, environmental, climate change and health challenges under both pillars.