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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Council

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Subject: Conclusions on a farmer-focused post 2027 Common Agricultural Policy  
- *Statements for the minutes*

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**Statement by Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia**

**STATEMENT BY BULGARIA, ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, POLAND, ROMANIA, AND SLOVAKIA on the need to achieve full external convergence in direct payments among Member States**

Delegations of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia highlight the persisting differences among Member States of the level of CAP direct payments, which is leading to unequal market conditions.

The accession conditions of the new Member States to the EU have negatively influenced the level of their CAP direct support. Today, potential advantages (i.e., lower production costs etc.) of those Member States are no longer in place, while high standards and requirements under the CAP are the same for all farmers in the EU. However, even in 2027, farmers of these Member States will still receive only around 80% of the EU average level of direct payments.

We are convinced that there is no ground to treat farmers differently in the internal market of the EU. In this regard Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia underline the need for full external convergence of direct payments.

We call on the Commission to finally accomplish the external convergence that started with the CAP reform in 2013 but has still not been finalized. We therefore request the Commission to reflect this need within the next CAP budget and to conclude the external convergence of the CAP direct support at the beginning of the next Multiannual Financial Framework in 2028.

## **Statement from Cyprus and Greece**

### **Statement by Cyprus and Greece on the conclusions on a farmer-focused post-2027 Common Agricultural Policy**

**Agriculture and Fisheries Council, Brussels, 9-10 December 2024**

In view of the provisions stated in point 13 of the conclusions on a farmer-focused post 2027 Common Agricultural Policy, Cyprus and Greece deem that ‘fair distribution of CAP support’ implies that support under CAP for EU farmers has to take into account, amongst other factors, the differences between Member States on:

- a) the value of land, the cost of transport and the cost of production;
- b) the income of the agricultural sector compared with the incomes of other sectors of the economy in each Member State;
- c) the purchasing power;
- d) the structure of agricultural sectors;
- e) the need to support small farms due to their limited capacity to exploit cost advantages, including those derived from technological advancements, available to economies of scale.

We also underline that financial issues related to the MFF are under the responsibility of the European Council and decisions on these matters should be addressed by the Heads of State and Government.

## **Statement from Denmark and the Netherlands**

### **Statement from Denmark and the Netherlands on the Conclusions on a farmer-focused post-2027 Common Agricultural Policy**

*Agriculture and Fisheries Council (Brussels, 9-10 December 2024)*

Denmark and the Netherlands would like to emphasize that “fair distribution of CAP support” implies that CAP support has to be defined taking into account the differences between the various challenges and goals in relation to i.a. climate and environment that face agriculture in each Member State as well as differences in production costs.

Further, by principle, the conclusions cannot pre-empt the future European multiannual financial framework (MFF), which is an issue for the European Council, and must be dealt with taking horizontal perspectives into consideration.

## **Statement from Germany**

### **Statement by the German delegation on the Council conclusions on the future of the CAP**

Germany thanks the Hungarian Presidency for drawing up Council conclusions on the future of the CAP.

Germany welcomes the fact that the Council conclusions cover the role of the CAP and present opportunities and ways to develop a sustainable and competitive approach.

In the process of reaching a consensus on the Council conclusions, compromises were reached in many cases to reconcile different positions. Germany expressly acknowledges that fact.

In the spirit of compromise, Germany can support the Council conclusions but would like to draw attention to the following point:

In Germany's view, it is not possible at this stage to make any advance decisions as regards the future Multiannual Financial Framework. Paragraph 13 of the Council conclusions must therefore be without prejudice to the future MFF. Against this background, Germany attaches particular importance to the clarification to that effect in paragraph 3 ('...these conclusions are without prejudice to the outcome of negotiations relating to [the next Multiannual Financial Framework]...').

Germany will continue to raise these important aspects in the discussions at European level and provide active and constructive support for future coordination processes.

## Statement from Italy

### **Statement from Italy on the conclusions on a farmer-focused post-2027 Common Agricultural Policy**

*Agriculture and Fisheries Council (Brussels, 9-10 December 2024)*

In relation to the conclusions on a farmer-focused post-2027 Common Agricultural Policy, Italy:

- welcomes the inclusion of the principle of food sovereignty in the text;
- reiterates that financial matters are the responsibility of the Heads of State or Government, and that a decision should be taken at that level;
- as regards the distribution of CAP resources, the CAP should refer to farmers and farms and, in this regard, Italy considers that ‘a fair distribution of CAP support’, as referred to in paragraph 13, implies that CAP support for farmers should be defined taking account of the differences between the income of agriculture with respect to the income of the other economic sectors in each Member State, and of the purchasing power and production costs in each Member State. At the same time, more resources for the CAP and less bureaucracy are needed;
- Environmental sustainability must always be combined with economic and social sustainability.

## Statement from Portugal

### Statement by Portugal – Annex to the text of Council conclusions on a farmer-focused post-2027 Common Agricultural Policy

Portugal underlines again the importance of this document, so that the Council can present a common position on the post-2027 CAP. It is crucial for the Council to have a firm position to fuel the ‘Vision for Agriculture and Food’ for the post-2027 CAP.

Portugal has therefore expressed support for the text of the conclusions.

However, Portugal believes that the conclusions should clearly state that the CAP budget cannot be reduced, and should maintain, at least, the same amounts, at constant prices, in pillars I and II.”

## **Statement from Romania**

### **”Statement of Romania on the Conclusions on a farmer-focused post 2027 Common Agricultural Policy**

#### **Agriculture and Fisheries Council (Brussels, 9-10 December 2024)**

With a view of para. 13 of the Conclusions on a farmer-focused post 2027 Common Agricultural Policy Romania request that the “fair distribution of CAP support, in particular direct payments, among Member States” to be implemented in the future CAP EU legislation as the full external convergence of direct payments among the 27 Member States of the EU. We are convinced that the different farming conditions obtained at the time of our accessions to the EU are no longer exist, therefore Romanian farmers should be eligible for the same level of direct payments per hectare as the rest of their counterparts. Also we strongly request to consider as the reference year for the direct payments allocation, year 2024.”

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