



Council of the
European Union

**Brussels, 4 March 2024
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AGRILEG 115
AGRIFIN 17
AGRISTR 15
AGRIORG 26**

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Need for rapid and structural responses to the current crisis situation in the agricultural sector
– *Presidency note*

Delegations will find in the Annex the letter which the Presidency has sent to the Commission regarding follow-up to the discussions in the Council on Monday, 26 February.



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Small Businesses, the Self-Employed,
SMEs and Agriculture, Institutional Reform
and Democratic Renewal

Brussels,

Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200,
1049 Brussels, Belgium

With reference to your letter of

Your references

Our references

Enclosure(s)

DC/DVE/AV/MJ/14376

To mention in every correspondence

Subject : Rapid and structural responses to the crisis situation facing the agricultural sector

Dear Commissioner,

Dear Janusz,

At the last AGRIFISH Council meeting on 26 February, Member States expressed a strong desire to give a rapid and robust answer to the farmers' demonstrations that we have seen throughout the EU over the last weeks and months and therefore tabled numerous proposals.

As the President of this Council configuration, I urge the European Commission to propose a concrete roadmap for the measures presented by the Commission at the Council, both for the short term and mid to long term. This is important to give a tangible response to farmers, but also to organise the work of the Belgian Presidency of the Council.

Regarding the CAP, the exchange of views in the Council emphasised the need to act quickly on issues such as conditionality (including GAEC 1, 6, 7, 8), the frequency of controls, the coordination and the simplification of the management of CAP strategic plans.

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Member States clearly expressed their will to open the basic regulations of the CAP. The Presidency believes this should be initiated as quickly as possible and at the latest before the AGRIFISH Council of 26 March in a targeted way, so that the modifications can take effect from 2025.

Also regarding the position of the farmer in the food chain, initiatives are expected from the Commission. Transparency, trading practices and a fair position should be in the heart of future actions. The Presidency urges the Commission to clarify the steps it intends to take, the instruments it foresees to use and the timeline it wants to adopt. Many Member States also voiced concerns regarding distortion of competition from imported products and the need for further support, other than state aid.

I trust that you share the concerns of the Council, that you are convinced of the necessity to bring both rapid and structural answers to the needs of farmers and that you will soon create clarity on the concrete steps the Commission intends to take.

Yours faithfully,



David CLARINVAL

Copy: Charles Michel, Ursula von der Leyen

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