Dear commissioner,

We, the undersigned, would like to express our full support to the recent proposal submitted by France, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Slovakia and Slovenia on the introduction of a partial application of Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC) No. 8 for the 2024 marketing year.

In line with the letter that a group of 43 members of the European Parliament sent to you last September 13, we would like to reiterate our concern about market developments following the Russian closure of the Black Sea and the loss of production capacity in Ukraine, with consequences for global food security.

This situation is particularly detrimental to imports from the EU and developing countries, which are among the main victims of this geopolitical situation and are increasingly dependent on Russian exports. In addition, European production is adversely affected by climate change and several Member States have cereal production shortfalls.

We therefore believe that the position paper signed by 11 Member States on the partial implementation of GAEC No. 8 would be an excellent compromise to strengthen EU food security while maintaining the environmental objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy.

Under this new provision, farmers would be able to reach the 7% share of biodiversity-friendly elements provided for in Regulation 2021/20115 only by introducing catch crops or nitrogen-fixing crops without using plant protection products. In this way, they would not be required to have a minimum share of set-aside land or non-productive elements. This derogation would be consistent with the EU's protein production ambitions pending the implementation of the forthcoming EU protein strategy.

We believe that the European Union must urgently deploy all its means of food production, while respecting biodiversity. We therefore ask you to consider the requests of these Member States and to respond to the concerns of the agricultural sector in view to the 2024 harvest by articulating the legislative provisions necessary for the introduction of such a derogation.

We thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely yours,

Irène Tolleret
Norbert Lins
Laurence Farreng
Ulrike Müller
Clara Aguilera
Jaroslav Kalinowski
Peter Jahr
Atidzhe Alieva-Veli
Asim Ademov
Michaela Šojdrová
Iskra Mihaylova
Alexander Yordanov
Anne Sander
Stelios Kypouropoulos
Martin Hlaváček
Daniel Buda
Klemen Grošelj
Matjaž Nemec
Milan Brglez
Lena Dupont
Juan Ignacio Zoido
Costas Mavrides
Dan-Ștefan Montreanu
Ioan-Rareș Bogdan
Traian Băsescu
Vasile Blaga
Cristian-Silviu Bușoi
Gheorghe Falcă
Mircea-Gheorghe Hava
Marian-Jean Marinescu
Bogdan-Ioan Rares
Siegfried Muresan
Vlad-Gheorghe Nistor
Eugen Tomac
Lorant Vincze
Iuliu Winkler