



Phil Hogan
Member of the European Commission
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

Brussels, May 4th 2016

Re: Request for a meeting with environmental NGOs on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

Dear Commissioner Hogan,

We would like to request a meeting with you to discuss the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

We took note with great interest of your speech at the Forum for the Future of Agriculture (FFA) and in particular your remarks concerning the new CAP's potential to improve the environmental performance of EU agriculture and to contribute to the provision of public goods not remunerated by the markets.

We are considerably less optimistic on this point. A number of studies on greening, including studies we have commissioned ourselves, point in the opposite direction and rather indicate that the greening is set to fail for the environment¹

As you know, recently over 100 organisations, including BirdLife and the EEB, sent to President Juncker a request for a fundamental debate about the policy according to the Fitness Check principles of effectiveness, efficiency, EU value added, relevance and coherence². This request was then backed by leading representatives of the scientific community on 5 April 2016³. You responded that you were open to the debate, which we would now like to take up with you in person.

In the light of the declining state of the natural resources upon which agriculture depends and the growing evidence that the CAP as it stands will not tackle it properly, as well as evidence on its incoherence with other EU objectives on e.g. development and public health, the time has come to start asking the fundamental questions. Moreover, the fact that an increasing number of governments are facing severe budget constraints and that rising levels of Euroscepticism are

¹ <http://www.eeb.org/index.cfm?LinkServID=B3A6C7B6-5056-B741-DBCBAF77DC0F2E35>
<http://www.eeb.org/index.cfm/news-events/news/new-rural-development-plans-and-the-environment-the-hidden-truth/> and <https://slakner.wordpress.com/2016/04/13/greening-of-direct-payments-first-preliminary-figures-on-the-eu-level/>
² <http://www.eeb.org/index.cfm/news-events/news/ngos-call-for-major-review-of-eu-food-and-farming-policy/>
³ http://www.ipes-food.org/images/Reports/OpenLetter_web_CommonFoodPolicy.pdf



challenging the future of the EU, we need to verify whether it is good value for money and whether it fulfils the objectives it sets for all EU citizens. This challenge cannot be addressed by a limited exercise, such as the previous round of reform, nor with the foreseen marginal changes to its 'greening' component within the simplification exercise. Such an exercise will set the scene for a broad debate, based on evidence and facts on how a future EU policy should take shape in the field of agriculture, food, health and environment that is fit to help Europe tackle the many challenges it is facing.

We would welcome the opportunity for a meeting to exchange views on this topic.

Yours sincerely,

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