

Mr Phil Hogan
European Commission Commissioner
Agriculture & Rural Development

Brussels, 19 April 2016

Dear Commissioner Hogan,

I hereby wish to invite you to a panel debate on “The future CAP and Wine sustainability” that we are organising on 20 June in Sicily, on the occasion of *Comité Européen des Entreprises Vins (CEEV)* General Assembly. As the title indicates, the meeting will be dedicated to discussing the situation of the European wine sector with a special focus on how the future CAP may impact wine sustainability.

As you know, Common Agricultural Policy represents a fundamental pillar for the sustainability of the European wine sector. The last CAP reform integrated measures focused on improving wine exports and the impressive exports figures, almost €10 billion in 2015, are partially based on this change of approach. However, the market share of EU wines over total world exports has declined in the last decades (about 68% in 2012, compared with 74% in 2000) and the global competitiveness of EU wines remains fragile.

In this context, the objective of the meeting is to bring together decision-making leaders in the EU wine sector, as well as European and national authorities - we are waiting for the confirmation of the Italian Minister of Agriculture, Maurizio Martina, and Members of the European Parliament, Herbert Dorfmann and Paolo De Castro.

We consider fundamental your presence to allow a complete dialogue on this important issue and we really hope that you will be able to join us for the event.

The meeting itself is structured as follows (more details will follow):

- 16.30: Panel discussion: The future CAP and Wine Sustainability
(Location: *Donnafugata Winery. Via S.Lipari 18 - 91025 Marsala – Sicilia*)
- 18.00: Visit of the vineyards and cellar
- 20.30: Dinner at the Donnafugata winery

We are looking forward to meeting you in Sicily. Do not hesitate to contact me if you need more information.

Sincerely yours,

