



Phil Hogan
 Member of the European Commission
 Responsible for Agriculture and Rural Development
 B-1049 Brussels
 Belgium

Brussels, 21th April 2016

Dear Commissioner,

On behalf of Pesticide Action Network Europe (PAN Europe) representing 34 national organisations dealing with pesticide use across the Europe, I allow myself to send you our newly developed inspiration note on **risk management tools in agriculture**.

The study ‘State of Play of Risk Management Tools Implemented by Member States During the Period 2014-2020: National and European Framework’ recently published by the European Parliament looks at risk management tools on ‘income uncertainties and market volatility’. PAN Europe has been looking for private and public risk management tool to accompany farmers financially (and technically) while moving towards more sustainable agricultural systems, with a special attention to schemes encouraging pesticides use reductions through uptake of integrated pest management, and found that, surprisingly, very little is being developed in this area.

It is a pity that so little attention is given to risk management tool as a way to accompany farmers in the needed change towards low input systems. A recent research on the hidden and external costs of pesticides by [redacted] from INRA (Sustainable Agricultural Reviews Volume 19) update original studies from the US on the hidden and external costs of pesticides (estimating four categories of costs: regulatory costs, human health costs, environmental costs and defensive expenditures), and found that taking all these categories into account would cost US citizens US\$35.2 billion (2013), which is 2.5 times higher than the original value of US\$13.6 billion (2013) estimated by [redacted], the most authoritative researcher having worked on this issue since decades. So when you think about the new CAP, then think about developing a system allowing transition towards sustainable agriculture.

We have a number of ideas on how to adjust CAP tools to become better able to ensure transition towards sustainable farming. We would welcome an opportunity to discuss some of these tools with you to achieve truly sustainable agriculture across the EU one day.

Sincerely yours

[redacted]
 [redacted]
 AN Europe