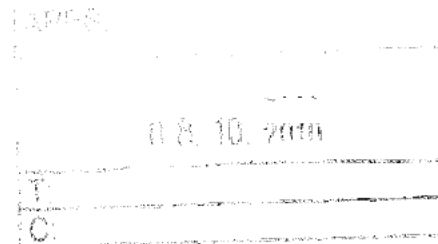


Commissioner Dacian Ciolos
European Commissioner for Agriculture
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

A/2777



PROVIEH

Verein gegen tierquälerische
Massentierhaltung e.V.

Vorsitzender

Bundesgeschäftsstelle

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Ref.: Environmental impacts of agriculture and CAP post 2013

28.09.2010

Dear Commissioner Ciolos,

As you well know, agriculture is at the heart of pressing problems like biodiversity loss, environmental degradation, resource depletion (water, phosphate etc.) and climate change, as more than half the EU's land is farmed. Scientific papers including IAASTD reports (see http://www.agassessment.org/index.cfm?Page=Press_Materials&ItemID=11 for more details) have shown that the promotion of organic farming could greatly contribute to solving most of these issues as well as hunger and poverty in most parts of the world. It is a myth that we shall have to produce the food for large parts of the ever growing world population. We couldn't without destroying our environment and we don't actually have to if we help developing countries to feed themselves with organic, sustainable farming of locally adapted livestock breeds, crops and methods rather than, for example, trying to secure industrial production of animal feed for our factory farms through land grab of fertile land in third countries or soy imports.

Production as well as consumption patterns will have to be adapted, especially in industrialized countries like the EU Member States. This is not a popular, easy message to get across, but meat and dairy production and consumption will have to go down if we want to leave our children and grandchildren a liveable planet, improve our health and reduce world hunger.

With the urgent CAP reform ahead it is now high time that the agricultural, trade and environmental policy makers should work hand in hand in order to achieve a future CAP that supports a genuinely sustainable agriculture in Europe and world wide.

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Der Verein gegen tierquälerische
Massentierhaltung e.V. ist behörd-
lich als gemeinnützig und beson-
ders förderungswürdig anerkannt.
Beiträge und Spenden sind steuer-
lich abzugsfähig.

Mitglied im: **Deutscher Tierschutzbund e.V.**
Erbchaften und Vermäch-
nisse zugunsten PROVIEH
sind erbschaftssteuerbefreit.



This is what Europeans according to recent Eurobarometer surveys really want: safe, healthy food that is produced in an environmentally and animal friendly way. They do not want GMOs in the food chain. And they want public goods like rural conservation, clean air, water and soils. It is a lot, but not too much to ask. The key issue: It all comes at a price. It is now up to you and your fellow decision makers from the Commission, national governments and the EP to join efforts and make the public understand that all these goods are not for free, that farmers need to earn a fair income. No need to go back to spending half of one's income on food like it was 50 years ago, but 11 – 14 % just might not be enough. Trade liberalization to import ever cheaper food that was produced in third countries under dire environmental and animal welfare circumstances is not the solution. It would further drive small and medium sized farmers, much needed for healthy socio-economic structures and landscapes in the rural areas, out of business.

The CAP therefore needs a complete turnaround; up until now it has benefitted mainly the agribusiness (high subsidies) as well as the food industry and the retailers (no need to pay farmers fair prices).

PROVIEH, Germany's oldest and largest farm animal welfare organisation, asks you to promote more sustainable production and consumption patterns through campaigns and concrete policy measures (see also attached position paper) and to help spend EU-taxpayers' money through the CAP in a way that really serves the long term public interest:

- Stop general direct payments. All monetary farm supports must be made conditional upon the provision of tangible services to society (public money for public goods and public services). These should go far beyond current cross-compliance criteria (e.g. including number of jobs provided). Strengthening of multi-functional environmentally sustainable family farming through targeted support for goals like environmental protection, animal welfare etc. (2. pillar until now) is needed with special support for organic farming.
- Establishment of comprehensive labelling laws (global footprint, animal welfare, country of origin) is needed in order to allow for informed consumer choices.
- The EU-standards set in conservation and environmental legislation are too low. Proof of it is that minimum ecological goals like halting biodiversity loss, climate change etc. could not be achieved. Among others, the soil directive must urgently be approved (see <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/1165&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>).
- The agricultural chapter must either be removed from WTO negotiations or the so called "non-trade concerns" like animal welfare, CO2 footprint (or global eco-



logical footprint) etc. must be converted into valid criteria for custom taxes or other instruments of trade policy.

All of these are cross-cutting issues that will have to be worked out with other Directorate Generals, so we sent similar letters to your Colleagues. We kindly ask all of you to increase the inter-service cooperation in order to promote these important issues. Do seek together with Mr. Potočník to set a sign of real cooperation and change, for example by proposing to organize a joint Green Week 2011 (or at least showing strong presence and support there). And please use this great opportunity provided by the inevitable CAP reform to bring about a real "green revolution" worthy of this name.

Best regards,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

– VgtM e. V.

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Position Paper on the impacts of Intensive Livestock Farming

Livestock husbandry for meat and dairy production is one of the main causes of man made greenhouse gas emissions, as shown by countless studies (e.g. by the FAO) in recent years. Factory farming is not only proven to harm the climate, but also to have a dire impact on nature, animals and biodiversity. According to the WorldWatch Institute, by 2004 already 74 % of poultry, 50 % of pigs, 43 % of beef and 63 % of eggs were produced in factory style farms, trends showing a rise since then. Nevertheless, industrial livestock husbandry and meat & dairy consumption are still not part of the political reflections concerning mitigation efforts to climate change and to halt the loss of biodiversity.

Demand for meat and milk products remains high in industrialized countries and is growing in the developing countries: Since 1980, the number of pigs and poultry has increased fourfold and that of ruminants (sheep, cattle etc.) has doubled. The FAO predicts the meat production to double and an 80 % increase of dairy production by 2050 if current trends persist. This demand cannot be met using sustainable production methods. And it would be a big mistake to try to increase mass production using factory style farms. Instead, **the population in industrialized countries must start to reduce the daily intake of meat and dairy products now**, also according to UNEP (*Environmental Impacts of Consumption and Production: Priority Products and Materials*, 2010). There are many **good reasons** for it:

1. Factory farming is not sustainable

Feed crop cultivation is next to gaining grazing land for beef cattle the main driver of deforestation/change of land use. High consumption of chemical fertilizers and pesticides as well as water usage put additional strain on nature, ecosystems and resources. Purine from factory farms is responsible for soil and air pollution as well as the eutrophication of rivers, lakes and oceans. Its high greenhouse gas emissions (methane, nitrous oxide and CO₂) drive climate change, whilst ammonia emissions cause acidification of soils and water bodies (acid rain). Huge GM- soy and -corn monocultures (feed crops) need increasing amounts of pesticides and exacerbate the already dramatic loss of biodiversity and ecosystems.

2. Factory farming is not efficient

According to the FAO, an estimated 33 % of the world's entire cereal harvest is used as livestock feed. But the conversion of plant proteins into animal proteins is poor: For each kg of beef you need 10 kg of feed (for pork the ratio is 4–5 kg per kg pork meat, for chicken it is 2–3 kg per 1 kg of meat). 90 % of the world soy production is already being used for livestock feed, prolonging inefficiently the food chain. Factory farming also destroys rural employment and economies.

3. Factory farming is not fair

The burden of problems and costs caused by it are forced upon all taxpayers, whilst earnings are private gains for the companies. Taxpayers pay threefold for meat and dairy products: Through direct payments and export subsidies (CAP), for the clean-up or suffering from a degraded environment, climate change effects etc. and a third time in the store when buying their food. Developing countries with large parts of their populations still suffering from hunger (especially in South America and Africa) witness an ever increasing concentration of arable land in the hands of very few owners – sometimes even foreign entities – who only grow cash crops for export instead of feeding nationals with traditional crops.

4. Factory farming is not healthy

The breeding of hybrid farm animal species was focussed for years entirely on productivity and profitability criteria. Many robust old races have died out or are in peril of extinction. And animals in factory farms are raised without sufficient space to move or live out their natural behaviour. They often suffer from lameness, deformities etc. and are more prone to illnesses than robust old races in free range keeping. The spread of diseases like avian and swine flu, blue-tongue and Q-fever is exacerbated by crowded, industrial holdings and global trade. Furthermore, according to WHO findings, the ongoing abuse of antibiotics in conventional animal farming is giving rise to multi-resistant bacteria. And the overconsumption of meat and dairy products is one of the main causes of obesity and overweight as well as "modern" diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease and some types of cancer in humans. A report published in the famous medical journal The Lancet proposes that inhabitants of developed countries should cut their meat consumption to 90g per day (max. 50g of red meat). "Westerners" currently eat their own body weight in meat each year: on average 224 grams per day!

5. Factory farming is not ethical

Animals suffer throughout their lives, always confined to stables never going outside, all the way through often painful transport and slaughter. They are crammed in with poor lighting conditions and no environmental enhancement, often subject to painful mutilations like castration, beak trimming, tail docking, tooth clipping, dehorning etc., all performed without anaesthesia. Many become aggressive (feather pecking, tail biting etc.) because they are not able to live out their natural instincts. Cheap mass production also frequently leads to subsidized exports of excess production. Such unfair competition destroys emerging local markets in developing countries.

That's why PROVIEH calls for a complete overhaul of the CAP as well as for more sustainable production and consumption patterns in the EU! 30 % of all food bought gets thrown away. Consumer awareness about the impact of diet and waste can be raised, e.g. through EU-wide compulsory CO₂ or - even better - global footprint labelling. The potential is great.¹ Each person can, for instance, save 196 kg of CO₂ per year just by introducing one meat free "veggie day" per week. So get the EU-institutions to set a good example introducing a weekly veggie-day in their restaurants! And make sure future CAP money only supports sustainable farming, especially where livestock production is involved. Please act now!

¹ For more details see the UK's Carbon Trust (<http://www.carbon-label.com/>), the "Love food, hate waste" campaign (<http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/>) and studies by the Joint Research Centre in Seville, such as <http://ipts.jrc.ec.europa.eu/publications/pub.cfm?id=2359>