



KONWENT MARSZAŁKÓW WOJEWÓDZTW RP MAZOWSZE 2010

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Dyrekcja Generalna
ds. Rolnictwa przy Komisji Europejskiej

W załączeniu przekazuję stanowisko Konwentu Marszałków Województw RP w sprawie Wspólnej Polityki Rolnej po 2013 roku podjęte w dniu 24 maja 2010 roku.

Dokument ten jest spójny ze „Stanowiskiem Rządu Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w sprawie przyszłości Wspólnej Polityki Rolnej Unii Europejskiej po 2013 roku”, którego tezy popierają mieszkańcy obszarów wiejskich będący bezpośrednimi beneficjentami programów pomocowych UE, jak również organizacje społeczne i instytucje naukowe zajmujące się problematyką rolnictwa i obszarów wiejskich.

Wierzę, że jednolite stanowisko w sprawie kształtu wspólnej polityki rolnej po 2013 roku, będzie silną stroną w negocjacjach unijnych, zwłaszcza w perspektywie Polskiej Prezydencji przypadającej na II połowę 2011 roku.

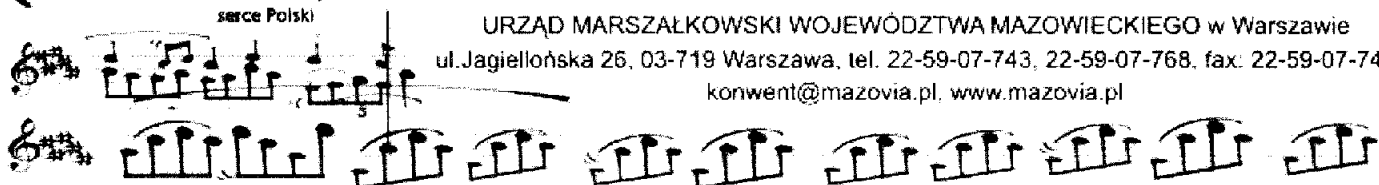
Marszałków Województw RP

Marszałek Województwa Mazowieckiego

Andrzej SZRAMEL

Mazowsze.

serce Polski



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TRANSLATION

The Union of the Voivodeships of the Republic of Poland

Warsaw, 2 June 2010

European Commission

DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Please find enclosed the „Position paper of the Convention of the Marshals of the Republic of Poland on Common Agricultural Policy after 2013” that has been approved on 24 May 2010.

This document is consistent with the „Position paper of the Government of the Republic of Poland on the future of the EU Common Agricultural Policy beyond 2013” and its arguments are supported by the residents of the rural areas who are the direct beneficiaries of the UE structural funds, as well as by the social organizations and scientific institutions working in the field of agricultural and rural development.

I believe that a single position on the shape of the Common Agricultural Policy beyond 2013 will be a strong asset in the EU negotiations, especially with respect to the Polish Presidency of the EU Council that will take place in the second half of the year 2011.

Marshals of the Republic of Poland

Marshal of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship



Otrzymują:

1. [REDACTED] Sejmu Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej
2. [REDACTED] Senatu Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej
3. Pan Marek Sawicki – Minister Rolnictwa i Rozwoju Wsi
4. Pani Elżbieta Bieńkowska – Minister Rozwoju Regionalnego
5. Dyrekcja Generalna ds. Rolnictwa - Komisja Europejska - Bruksela
6. Paolo De Castro – Przewodniczący Komisji AGRI (Rolnictwo i Rozwój Wsi) w Parlamencie Europejskim
7. Janusz Wojciechowski - Wiceprzewodniczący Komisji AGRI (Rolnictwo i Rozwój Wsi) w Parlamencie Europejskim
8. Jarosław Kalinowski – Członek Komisji AGRI (Rolnictwo i Rozwój Wsi) w Parlamencie Europejskim
9. Wojciech Michał Olejniczak - Członek Komisji AGRI (Rolnictwo i Rozwój Wsi) w Parlamencie Europejskim
10. Czesław Adam Siekierski - Członek Komisji AGRI (Rolnictwo i Rozwój Wsi) w Parlamencie Europejskim
11. Filip Kaczmarek – Zastępca w Komisji AGRI (Rolnictwo i Rozwój Wsi) w Parlamencie Europejskim
12. Jacek Włosowicz - Zastępca w Komisji AGRI (Rolnictwo i Rozwój Wsi) w Parlamencie Europejskim
13. Artur Zasada - Zastępca w Komisji AGRI (Rolnictwo i Rozwój Wsi) w Parlamencie Europejskim
14. Andrzej Babuchowski - Radca - Minister, koordynator Wydziału ds. rolnictwa i rybołówstwa - Stałe Przedstawicielstwo RP przy UE w Brukseli
15. [REDACTED] (EL/EPP) - [REDACTED] NAT - Komitet Regionów, Grecja
16. CAP2020, Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP), Londyn

**POSITION PAPER
OF THE
CONVENTION OF THE MARSHALS OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND
on Common Agricultural Policy after 2013
24 may 2010**

1. Common Agricultural Policy - at the service of the whole society

The Common Agricultural Policy is no longer perceived in a narrow, sartorial context. The awareness of the society about the variety of functions of agriculture and the agricultural policy is increasing. This is a result of the strong relation between agriculture, natural environment and the economic and social development of the whole country.

The Common Agricultural Policy is at the services of not only the farmers, but the whole society and this is not only through the production of food products even though this traditional function will always remain the most important task in the context of long-term global demographic changes.

2. The CAP budget

We need a strong CAP Community budget after the year 2013. This is caused by several factors:

- Primarily, a strong budget is essential in the view of the planned expansion of the functions and task that are expected from the European agriculture and the Common Agricultural Policy. Lets not forget that in addition to the existing targets, confirmed in the article 39 of the Lisbon Treaty, we are speaking about the need to integrate agriculture and the Common Agricultural Policy into the implementation of the new Community objectives related to e.g. the sustainable (green) development.
- Secondly, a strong budget is essential for ensuring equal competitiveness conditions in the enlarged EU. This is not only about justice – equal competitiveness conditions on the common market are necessary for the improvement of the competitiveness of the EU agriculture (as a whole) on international markets. This requires a departure from the existing, temporary solutions, especially in terms of the allocation of funds in the first pillar of the CAP.
- Third, a strong budget is vital in the context of low and unstable prices of the agricultural commodities. We can expect an improvement, but only in the long-term perspective due to the projected increase in world population. In a short term perspective, particularly in the context of the financial crisis, it is difficult to expect significant improvements in this area.
- Fourthly, the liberalization process of international trade can not be reconciled with the consideration of lowering the CAP budget and the raising demands of the farmers regarding quality and environmental protection.
- Finally, a strong CAP budget is in fact an essential condition for this policy to remain as a policy of a Community dimension, that realizes the Community goals with respect to the Community challenges. Further renationalization of financing would cause that the national (often selfish) goals would compete with the common goals and would inevitably destroy what has been achieved so far, e.g. the Single Market.

3. The shape of the CAP after 2013

We support the reforms of the CAP in the areas that help to depart from the inefficient and unfair practices. At the same time, we maintain all of those elements that are proven to be effective and that will be needed also in the future.

We have identified three priorities in the reform of the CAP

- **The first priority is the unification of the direct support** among the Member States and departure from the historical production criteria for the distribution of the financial envelope.
- **The second priority is the simplification of the CAP.** However, we are in favor of a realistic progress in this aspect without prejudice to the efficiency and effectiveness of the CAP.
- We also propose a stronger focus on the support for the needs as well as the potential and abilities of **small and medium farms**, that are the basis of the European agricultural model. The structural characteristics of the sector of small farms that make it more difficult for them to compete on the global market, should facilitate their involvement in the implementation of sustainable, effective management of resources and environmental protection.

Given such priorities **we expect**:

- major changes in the system of direct payments;
- continuation and simplification of the rural development policy (second pillar) and
- continuation of the market intervention system, in particular the preservation of all the existing instruments and their more active and effective use in the future.

4. System of direct payments

Direct payments should remain the primary instrument of the CAP. Especially because they allow for the inclusion of all the farms and the total surface area of agricultural land in the implementation of the main objectives of this policy.

High effectiveness of this instrument is due to its multifunctionality combined with its relatively simple nature. What can not be achieved through direct payments should be pursued through the instruments of the second pillar, which in their nature are more focused, but at the same, costly in implementation. Of course, this does not mean that the second pillar instruments can not be simplified.

Direct payments should be responsible for food security through support and stabilization of the farmers' incomes and maintaining the agricultural land available for production (*Good Agricultural Practice*). Direct payments are also an instrument for achieving environmental objectives, covering the costs of meeting increasingly high requirements imposed on agriculture. As the main instrument of financial support, direct payments are also responsible for equal conditions of competition within the Single Market.

We are in favour of the simplest, most effective and just model consisting of **a uniform area rate** across the entire European Union. In this model, the funds would be distributed according to the area of the agricultural land. The area of the agricultural land is in fact the most important parameter that reflects the potential of the productivity and the environmental effects in association with the goals of the future CAP. This payment

would be in line with the postulate of the majority of the Member States to unify the level of subsidies across UE.

In the discussion about the **level of subsidies and the fund envelopes**, some voices have raised to consider the differences in the purchasing power, as well as the production costs among the Member States. We categorically disagree with this proposition. In reality it would mean maintaining the differences between the old and new Member States. Above all, this proposal has no substantive justification.

Comparisons show that prices paid by the Polish farmers for fuel, pesticides and machinery are not lower than the prices paid by the German farmers, and it can not be ruled out that after 2013 they may even be higher. The current differences in the land or rent prices and in the prices of other production means, reflect differences in the level of direct support.

The remuneration for the same public goods under the CAP should be the same throughout the EU, the same as it is in the case of equal level of market and intervention prices.

Differentiation of the rates according to the production costs would also be a penalty to the countries of a more efficient agriculture and would lead to a greater distortion of competition within the Single Market than at present- certainly to the disadvantage of the new Member States and to the detriment of the possibility for improving the competitiveness of the European agriculture as a whole.

It should be emphasized that the attempt to take into account new criteria beyond the surface of the agricultural land would justify the inclusion of other criteria, in particular the number of fully employed.

This criterion reflects well: 1) the treaty objective of income support, 2) the postulate for improvement of the distribution of the support, and 3) the potential for the implementation of certain public goods.

As for **the construction of the direct payment system**, we suggest simplification and unification of this system in all Member States. For this reason, we prefer a uniform rate based on the surface area across the whole UE, as a basic payment. However, because of the need to take a greater account of the environmental issues or the specificity of the Member States, we see an opportunity to consider a multi-level system. In this system, within the national envelopes set by the criterion of national agricultural area, Member States would carry out a basic uniform area payment (with respect to the total surface area of the agricultural land) and based on the availability of the resources (e.g. 70 %). The remaining amount would be allocated for special payments, such as:

- payments for less-favored areas (LFA);
- payments for high nature value areas (HNV);
- or payments for the permanent pastures.

All payments should be fully financed from the Community budget. Transfer of LFA to the first pillar of the UE global envelope would in fact mean the financial strengthening of the 2nd pillar- more resources would remain for the other instruments of CAP. Farms eligible for the basic land area payment would be maintained in readiness for production (without an obligation to produce). Reduction of the number of controls as well as the elimination of the need to place an annual application should be considered.

5. Support for rural development – the second pillar of CAP


Continuation of support within the second pillar of CAP is also necessary. This support is crucial in terms of achieving economic cohesion, and especially in the process of the new Member States catching up with the old Member States. Within the second pillar instruments which support the rural area development and that promote diversification of rural activities in these areas should still remain. Support from the second pillar will continue to be a key factor to ensure the modernization and competitiveness of European agriculture, which will also contribute to the maintenance of food security. The second pillar should keep its relevance in the provision of environmental public goods and interact in this aspect with the system of direct payments.

6. Market intervention

We need an efficient system of market intervention. These mechanisms are no longer the primary way to support the farm incomes, however, they effectively provide a „safety net“ in case of a crisis. Interventions should be complemented by the mechanisms of support for the promotion of agricultural commodities on the EU market and third countries, promotion of appropriate dietary habits, as well as instruments for risk management and crisis management. Recent experiences clearly demonstrate that we need an effective Community system to counteract the effects of crises which often originate elsewhere than agriculture.

We wish to underline once again that:

- 1) we need to ensure an appropriate agricultural budget for the period of 2014-2020 in order to maintain the Community character of the EU agricultural policy and its contribution into the process of European integration;
- 2) we must give up all the elements that contribute to the maintainance of the division of agriculture and farmers into the „old“ and „new“ Member States and in particular resign from: the historical criteria for allocating financial envelopes, transition periods, re-nationalization of financing
- 3) we need to put a lot of effort into developing a new effective model of direct payments that is in line with the new goals of the CAP.

 ***Convention of the Marshals
of the Republic of Poland***