

FL(21)2878:1 – *Art. 4.1(b)*

Mr Wolfgang Burtscher
Director-General
DG AGRI
European Commission
200, rue de la Loi
B-1000 Brussels

Brussels, 23th April 2021

Re: exceptional extreme weather conditions damaging fruit and vegetables production

Dear Director-General,

After weeks of mild weather, several regions in Europe have experienced an exceptionally severe cold spell, which has halted flowering and seriously threatened fruit production. While other regions have experienced normal weather conditions thus far, there is a risk of frost until mid-May in Belgium, the Netherlands, Northern Germany, Sweden and Poland, etc.

Several tens of thousands of hectares of orchards of peaches and nectarines, apricots, almonds, nuts, plums, cherries, kiwis, pears and apples have been damaged by frost in France, Italy, Spain, Southern Germany, Austria, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Greece. Early vegetable seedlings (beetroot, carrots, peas, tomatoes) have not sustained as much damage as fruit trees.

The cold weather is having a negative impact on fruit and vegetable consumption. The producer organisations as well as the entire supply chain is suffering from the exceptional weather conditions. In some regions and market segments, in addition to extreme weather conditions, the sector is suffering from the consequences of new pests and the COVID-19 pandemic.

At this stage, it is difficult to gauge the exact impact of the wave of frost on orchards at EU level. However, in France and Italy the losses are estimated to represent more than €1 billion in the fruit sector.


Given the exceptional gravity of the situation for the fruit and vegetable sector and the persistence of the COVID-19 crisis, Copa and Cogeca call on the Commission to provide:

- all possible extraordinary and additional measures at EU level to compensate the affected producers;
- an extension of all the COVID-19 derogations introduced in 2020 regarding operational funds and operational programmes for the year 2021;
- greater flexibility over the rules on calculating the value of the marketed production (VMP), provided by Delegated Regulation 891/2017, in the affected regions in order to safeguard the stability of the VMP of producer organisations in light of the increasing frequency and impact of extreme climate events, allowing them to be granted an appropriate VMP in the event of successive years marked by misfortune.

We would like to thank you in advance for taking our concerns into account.

Yours faithfully,

Art. 4.1(b) Privacy



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