

CC(21)6261:1 –

Art. 4.1(b) Privacy

Mr. Janusz Wojciechowski
Commissioner for Agriculture
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 130
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Brussels, 29th September 2021

Re: Request for clarification of the Commission's position on the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Impact Assessment(s)

Dear Commissioner Wojciechowski,

In a recent statement made last Thursday both on social media and in a press conference, you indicated the willingness of the European Commission to better analyse the impacts of the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies. You also indicated that the analyses provided by the studies currently published are not sufficiently comprehensive and that they cannot be considered impact assessments as they stand.

The farmers and agri-cooperatives of Copa-Cogeca are pleased to note the Commission's willingness to accurately assess the impact of these strategies, even though we would have hoped to have such an analysis when the European Parliament was voting its amendments. We also agree with you on the fact that all the studies that are currently being published are incomplete, as we have always stated in our various communications^{1 2}.

However, we have noted in your statements that there is some confusion as to the nature of the analysis that will be conducted by the Commission. Indeed, in your tweets you initially referred to, "a comprehensive impact assessment" and then to "specific impact assessments foreseen for all Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies legislative initiatives". As you know, the difference between the two goes beyond a problem of semantics.

The position of Copa-Cogeca is clear, we ask for, and will only accept, a global impact assessment that includes the ambitions and targets set in the Farm to Fork and the Biodiversity strategies as well as any additional proposals made by the European Parliament and retained by the Commission in the preparation of its regulatory initiatives.

The reason for this call is simple. The impacts of these strategies will not be felt on the ground individually, but all at the same time, with cumulative effects. Specific impact studies may be have their merit, but they will not allow us to really understand the challenges that our farmers and agricultural cooperatives will have to face.

We need a global impact assessment to understand where the potential loopholes are in the strategies under discussion so that we can consider solutions and tools on a rational and quantified basis. Specific impact assessments will not allow us to properly evaluate the impact of those strategies and what needs to be done to achieve their main objective, making EU food system more sustainable.

¹ <https://copa-cogeca.eu/Archive/Download?id=3915050&fmt=pdf>

² <https://copa-cogeca.eu/Archive/Download?id=3925560&fmt=pdf>

Against this backdrop, after more than a year of discussions on the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies, we are hoping for clarity on the subject. We would expect a precise answer to at least two points: Would it be possible for the Commission to explain to Copa-Cogeca what kind of study(ies) is/are planned? When can we expect a release of this/these impact assessment(s)?

We understand the difficulty of developing a satisfactory model for such a comprehensive impact assessment and would be glad to have a meeting with you to discuss this topic and attempt to clarify the misunderstandings resulting from your speeches last week.

Yours sincerely,

Personal Data

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