



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

CLIMATE ACTION

Directorate C – Climate strategy, governance and emissions from non-trading sectors

The Director

Brussels, **1 – AOUT 2016**
Ares (2016)

Subject: The role of agriculture and forest in the climate and energy package

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for your letter addressed to President Juncker on 10th June 2016, in which you outline the view of COPA COGECA on the role of agriculture and forests in the Climate and Energy Package. I have been asked to respond on his behalf.

Since your letter, the Commission adopted two key proposals to ensure the achievement of the EU commitments under the Paris Agreement on climate change: the Effort Sharing Regulation setting the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for Member States for 2030¹ and a proposal on integrating the land use sector into the EU's 2030 climate and energy framework.²

The Commission proposals follow the guidance provided by EU leaders in October 2014 and reconfirmed in March this year. They ensure a fair distribution of efforts in the EU that can be achieved in a cost effective manner while ensuring environmental integrity.

With regards to the Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR), EU leaders had agreed that need to reduce emissions by 30% compared to 2005 as part of their contribution to the overall EU target of at least 40% reduction by 2030 compared to 1990. The proposal on the Effort Sharing Regulation sets national binding targets for Member States for 2030 from 0% to -40% compared to 2005, recognising their different capacities. The targets take into account differences in GDP per capita and for some Member States adjustments are made if there is a particular concern related to cost efficiency.

The Commission proposal on the integration of the land use sector also follows the agreement by EU leaders that all sectors should contribute to the EU's 2030 emissions reduction target. The proposal sets out accounting rules to determine compliance for the land use sector, building on the existing accounting rules developed under the Kyoto Protocol, while updating and improving them to make the governance of the sector more robust and fit for purpose.

You will be satisfied to see that the proposals are in line with many of the views previously expressed by your organisation.

¹ COM(2016) 482 final, available at http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/effort/framework2/documentation_en.htm

² COM(2016) 479 final, available at http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/forests/lulucf/documentation_en.htm

Firstly, the LULUCF sector continues to be treated separately from the Effort Sharing Regulation; this was the preferred option of COPA COGECA as outlined in your submission to the public consultation on addressing greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture and LULUCF.

Secondly, both proposals include flexibilities that ensure a cost efficient allocation of the mitigation effort across sectors (ETS and non-ETS sectors, Effort Sharing sectors and the LULUCF sector), across Member States and over time. These new and additional flexibilities remain limited in order to maintain environmental integrity; however, acknowledging the lower mitigation potential of the agricultural sector mentioned in your letter, the Commission proposes that the eligibility to use LULUCF credits in the Effort Sharing sectors would be higher for those Member States with a higher share of agricultural emissions.

Finally, we are also confident that with the right measures, and the right degree of flexibility, a policy can be built that optimizes the GHG reduction from agriculture and the land use sectors while further increasing its overall productivity in a sustainable manner. The latter is a prerequisite for improved competitiveness of European agriculture and for meeting the essential need to continue to increase agricultural production in the coming decades.

The Commission proposals are now for consideration by the European Parliament and Council as co-legislators. I would like to use this opportunity to thank you for your valuable input and I count on your involvement for turning these Commission proposals into effective legislation that would facilitate the transition to a low carbon economy.

Yours sincerely,


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cc:  (CLIMA),  (AGRI)

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