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To the Members of the European Parliament

Brussels, 16th November 2021

RE: European Parliament Plenary vote on the Common Agricultural Policy legislative package

Dear Honourable Member of the European Parliament,

On 23rd November 2021, the European Parliament Plenary will vote on the outcome of the intensive work and negotiations on the Common Agricultural Policy reform package. The vote in Plenary marks the completion of an enormous effort and it comes with the tremendous responsibility of providing European farmers and cooperatives with the tool (the Common Agricultural Policy) that will guide them through the transformation and transition towards more sustainable farming methods in the years to come. We would like to thank you for this.

This immense work required massive efforts by the co-legislators in order to reach a political agreement at the end of June 2021, which resulted in a consolidated version of the texts. A positive vote on the Common Agricultural Policy legislative package in the Plenary would provide farmers and agricultural cooperatives with the necessary certainty and predictability and society as a whole with a vision for the future.

The new Common Agricultural Policy is not and will never be considered as greenwashing, but as a major challenge for small and large farms alike. The increased level of complexity and obligations with respect to the new environmental requirements in the context of a reduced Common Agricultural Policy budget, tougher international competition and continuous erosion of incomes will require major efforts from farmers and their cooperatives if they are to deliver on the set objectives. In a performance-oriented framework, this will require time to prepare and plan ahead. This also implies stricter rules for European farmers, stricter than anywhere else in the world.

We are committed to the Common Agricultural Policy and its good performance, to becoming more sustainable and doing more for the environment and the climate and to make the required investments. However, it is of the utmost importance that the Common Agricultural Policy continues to protect the incomes and ensure the livelihood of farmers. Given the challenges ahead, European farmers and agricultural cooperatives need a workable, efficient and, most of all, simple Common Agricultural Policy with realistic measures.

The Common Agricultural Policy remains both a success story and a strategic policy whose primary goal should be to ensure the availability and affordability of safe, high-quality, nutritious food in the EU as well as the sustainability of our territories.

We want to be able to produce in a sustainable manner and to deliver the public goods as requested by European citizens and consumers but in order to do so, the European Parliament, the Council, the European Commission and society as a whole need to stand by their farmers. The final package is on your table now. We are counting on you, honourable members of the European Parliament, and on your support for a swift and rapid approval of the Common Agricultural Policy package.

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The sooner we have this approval, the sooner we can take further concrete actions on the ground in preparation of its implementation starting on 1st January 2023.

Faithfully yours,



Pekka Pesonen
Secretary General