



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 27/7/2021
C(2021) 5681 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on an Action Plan for the Development of Organic Production {COM(2021) 141 final}.

The Commission adopted the action plan on 25 March 2021. It constitutes one of the new initiatives in its Work Programme 2021 and aims to support the development of organic production in the EU and the achievement of the target, included in both the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies, of 25% of EU agricultural land under organic farming and a significant increase in organic aquaculture by 2030.

Boosting organic production is important because of the direct beneficial environmental, climate, biodiversity and animal welfare and because any increase in organic production will contribute to achieving the other targets in the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies such as reducing the use of fertilisers, pesticides and antimicrobials.

The Commission is pleased to observe that the Senát supports its efforts to increase the production and consumption of organic products and to improve the sustainability of organic farming and welcomes the action plan.

The Commission takes note of the fact that the Senát considers the action plan to be overly general and lacking a more specific description of proposed actions as well as more concrete information on its funding.

With respect to the latter, the Commission would like to recall that, at the time of the adoption of the action plan, the negotiations on the next common agricultural policy had not yet been concluded. For this reason, information on future financial support remained rather general.

With respect to the former, the Commission would like to emphasize the 'framework' nature of the action plan and the fact that much of the scope for action lies at national

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level. That is why it has emphasized in the action plan the need to avoid a 'one size fits all' approach and the role of the Member States, which are most familiar with national circumstances. It has also highlighted the two key tools at the disposal of Member States for defining their level of ambition with respect to organic production and a set of coherent interventions in support of it: the national strategic plans under the next common agricultural policy and the national organic action plans.

Against this background, the Commission is pleased to observe that a Czech action plan for organic production for the period 2021-2027 is already in place and that it is in broad accordance with the EU-level action plan. The call for the national government to motivate farmers through appropriate subsidy policies or other possible forms of support is fitting in this regard.

The Commission notes the concern of the Senát concerning yields and prices. Within this context, the Commission would like to draw the attention of the Senát to the actions in the action plan foreseen to boost yields and also reassure the Senát that its overarching objective is to ensure the balanced development of demand and supply.

Given that currently 3.9% of the agricultural land in Czechia is under organic farming, the Commission hopes that this action plan will support the endeavours of the Government of the Czech Republic to boost the consumption and production of organic products.

The Commission has taken due note of the views expressed by the Senát in its opinion and will take account of the issues raised in the concrete operationalisation of the action plan.

The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Janusz Wojciechowski
Member of the Commission*