



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 10.9.2020
C(2020) 6274 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senato della Repubblica for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down certain transitional provisions for the support by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) in the year 2021 and amending Regulations (EU) No 228/2013, (EU) No 229/2013 and (EU) No 1308/2013 as regards resources and their distribution in respect of the year 2021 and amending Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013, (EU) No 1306/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013 as regards their resources and application in the year 2021 {COM(2019) 581 final} (hereinafter also as ‘Transitional Regulation’).

This proposal forms part of a broader legislative package for the agricultural policy beyond 2020, which includes Regulation (EU) No 2020/127 and the proposals for the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) post-2020. The Transitional Regulation and Regulation (EU) No 2020/127 were proposed to ensure continuity of support for the agricultural sector before the new CAP and its Strategic Plans are in place.

The Transitional Regulation was proposed in October 2019 and is currently being discussed by the co-legislators of the European Union, the European Parliament and the Council.

A pre-requisite for the adoption of the Transitional Regulation is the agreement on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). The prompt adoption of the MFF Regulation following the European Council’s conclusions on the recovery plan and multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027 of 21 July is therefore of utmost priority. Furthermore, for the sake of long-term predictability and clarity for the agricultural sector, as well as meeting the environmental ambition, it is essential to allow for a timely

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application of the rules contained in the Commission proposals for a CAP post-2020. The Commission thus remains committed to striving for a one-year transitional period.

This is why the Commission proposal provides for the possible extension of existing rural development programmes until 2021, the end of the aid schemes provided for in Articles 29 to 60 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 by 31 December 2021 and rules for internal convergence for the years 2020 and 2021.

The Commission takes note of the position of the Senato della Repubblica asking for a two year transition period. However, taking into account the critical assessment of the Court of Auditors of the current CAP's contribution to climate and environmental objectives and taking into account the need to step up efforts for the climate and environment, the Commission is of the opinion that the transition should have a duration of one year.

In its proposal, the Commission followed the 'principle of continuity' and therefore did not include new elements or modifications of existing elements laid down in the current CAP legislation. Such elements are proposed and discussed in the context of the Commission proposals for the CAP post-2020 and should in the Commission's view and in light of the necessity for an urgent adoption not be mixed with the discussions on the Transitional Regulation. The Commission takes note, however, of the opinion of the Senato della Repubblica as regards the extension of the deadline for the conversion into authorisations of planting rights, modifications of risk management rules and of support for resilience of farms. Some of these elements have also been requested by the co-legislators of the Union in the context of the legislative procedure on the Transitional Regulation, and the Commission is discussing them with the co-legislators in this ongoing procedure.

The Commission appreciates the Opinion of the Senato della Repubblica on the Transitional Regulation and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Senato della Repubblica in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Janusz Wojciechowski
Member of the Commission*