



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear Chairs,

The Commission would like to thank the Sénat, the Senato della Repubblica, the Senat and the Oireachtas for their joint parliamentary declaration on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy for 2020: «rebuilding the Common Agricultural Policy, a strategic priority for the future of the European Union”.

As part of its Work Programme for 2017 and without prejudice to the MFF, the Commission has taken forward work and consulted widely on simplification and modernisation of the Common Agricultural Policy in order to increase its effectiveness and to maximise its contribution to the Commission's ten priorities and to the Sustainable Development Goals.

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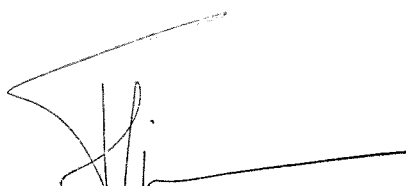
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The Commission is pleased that the Sénat, the Senato della Repubblica, the Senat and the Oireachtas share its view for a strong, simple and clear Common Agricultural Policy able to give answers to complex economic, environmental and social issues at stake. Moreover, the Commission welcomes the points of view expressed in the declaration concerning the importance of risk management, promotion of high quality, European products and use of new technologies in agriculture.

The need of strengthening the role of farmers in the food chain is also acknowledged. For this reason, on the 20th of June, Commissioner Hogan and Commissioner Vestager announced an initiative to improve the food supply chain in the EU, focusing on addressing unfair trading practices and improving market transparency.

Concerning the EU budget the "reflection paper on the future of EU finances"¹ sets out various options. For the Common Agricultural Policy, like for the other policies, the paper raises some key questions. But this paper does not constitute the Commission proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework post 2020, that will probably be presented in mid-2018 and will take into consideration the public debate on the future of the EU finances.

The Commission values the Sénat's, the Senato della Repubblica's, the Senat's and the Oireachtas' engagement at this stage of the policy making process and will take their declaration and other contributions received concerning the future of the Common Agricultural Policy into account. It looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.



Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President



Phil Hogan
Member of the Commission

¹ COM (2017) 358