

**MARSHAL OF THE SENATE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND**

Stanisław KARCZEWSKI

Courtesy translation

Warsaw, 26 April 2018

**Mr Jean-Claude Juncker
President
of the European Commission**

Attached please find the Resolution on the negotiation of the rules of the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union after 2020, as adopted by the Senate of the Republic of Poland during its 58th meeting held on 15 March 2018.

Yours sincerely,

Courtesy translation

**RESOLUTION
OF THE SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND**

dated 15 March 2018

**on the negotiation of the rules of the Common Agricultural Policy of the European
Union after 2020**

The Senate of the Republic of Poland has been closely monitoring the EU discussions on the common agricultural policy (“CAP”) after 2020. In this regard, the Senate of the Republic of Poland is convinced that the maintenance of the common EU policy with respect to agriculture and rural areas and financing of such policy from the common fund would significantly influence the effective performance of the public objectives of the Community related to the production of food and social, economic and environmental aspects of agriculture and rural areas. This concept of the European added value of the EU policies is strongly emphasised in the European discussions, in particular in the discussions on the future multi-annual budget of the European Union.

Therefore, the Senate of the Republic of Poland requests that the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council disregard the transitional difficulties currently faced by the European Union during their work on the EU budget as they could obscure the fundamental needs of the EU citizens satisfied through the common agricultural policy.

The Senate of the Republic of Poland believes that the priorities of the future common agricultural policy can only be implemented if the agricultural policy is Community-financed in its entirety from the EU budget. The budget of the common agricultural policy of the European Union should reflect the increasing challenges that are currently faced by the European agriculture, connected with social expectations, environmental requirements laid down in the EU legislation and economic pressure related to globalisation and liberalisation of the commercial policy of the European Union. According to the Senate of the Republic of Poland, changes to the way in which direct payments are financed, i.e. co-financing from national budgets, in particular voluntary co-financing from national budgets, as suggested in

the discussions on the European agriculture, could put equal conditions for competition at serious threat.

Furthermore, the Senate of the Republic of Poland requires that equal conditions for competition are ensured on the single market of agricultural and food products. In order to achieve this objective, it is necessary to, inter alia, to finally discontinue the use of historical criteria of distributing funds for direct payments and to finalize the process of introducing the same level of direct payments in all the Member States. The maintenance of the currently still applicable and unfair direct payment system infringes the rule of non-discrimination on the ground of nationality (Article 18 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union) and infringes the ban on discrimination between producers within the Union (Article 40 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union). The Senate of the Republic of Poland has already expressed its opinion in this regard in its resolution of 16 February 2012, calling the Government of the Republic of Poland and the European Parliament for vigorous action to simplify the common agricultural policy, promote competition and progress and introduce equal and non-discriminatory rules to divide funds for direct payments to farmers between the EU Member States (*Monitor Polski*, Item 111).

The Senate of the Republic of Poland has already recognised the need to pursue an active policy to stabilise agricultural markets, enhance the bargaining power of agricultural producers and processors in the market chain and introduce more effective production and price risk management tools. At present, agriculture in the European Union is more and more dependent on variable prices of agricultural products due to the situation on global markets and climate changes, hence adversely affecting the stability of farm income, hindering long-term planning and new investments as well as discouraging young people from engaging in agriculture.

The Senate of the Republic of Poland believes that the common agricultural policy should support the income of small and medium-sized family farms to a larger degree. Such farms are an important element of the European farming model and provide social and economic vitality to many rural areas by maintaining jobs. They provide environmentally sustainable production and create added value by producing food according to regional traditions which is so important for European diversity.

The Senate of the Republic of Poland underlines that rural development policy is very important for the purposes of the common agricultural policy (the so-called Second Pillar of

CAP). According to the Senate, the financing of this element of the common agricultural policy should be strengthened, harmonious criteria of the EU budget allocation for the Second Pillar should be maintained due to continuous diversity in the development of rural areas and involvement of other EU policies in the development of those areas should be ensured.

The Senate of the Republic of Poland calls on the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union to consider the conclusions laid down in this Resolution during their work on the future common agricultural policy after 2020.

The Resolution will be published in the Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland *Monitor Polski*.

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