



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 11.9.2017  
C(2017) 6066 final*

*Mr Călin POPESCU-TĂRICEANU  
President of the Senat  
Calea 13 Septembrie nr. 1-3, sector 5  
RO – 050711 BUCHAREST*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion concerning the Commission proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council fixing the adjustment rate provided for in Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 for direct payments in respect of the calendar year 2017 {COM(2017) 150 final}.*

*The Senat considers that to clarify when the crisis reserve may be used, it is necessary to update the proposal for a Regulation by inserting an additional paragraph in the 'Context of the Proposal' chapter. This paragraph should specify the measures for which money from the reserve can be made available and the legal basis for this.*

*The crisis reserve makes it possible to finance additional support measures in the event of crises affecting the agricultural sector. Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013<sup>1</sup> is indeed the relevant legal basis for any such measures, but the crisis reserve can only be called upon where such measures, in particular for any expenditure under the articles mentioned both in the Senat's Opinion and in Article 226 of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, cannot be financed from the existing budget. The explanatory memorandum to the Commission proposal contains the legal reference to the crisis reserve in Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013.*

*The Commission hopes that these clarifications addresses the issue raised by the Senat and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Phil Hogan  
Member of the Commission*

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 922/72, (EEC) No 234/79, (EC) No 1037/2001 and (EC) No 1234/2007, OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 671–854.