EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Brussels, 31.1.2022 C(2022) 651 final

Mr Ion-Marcel CIOLACU
President of the Camera
Deputaților
Palace of the Parliament
Str. Izvor nr. 2-4, sector 5
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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Action Plan for the Development of Organic Production {COM(2021) 141 final}.

This Action Plan aims to increase the consumption and production of organic products and to enhance further the sustainability of the organic sector in line with the European Green Deal, the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Biodiversity Strategy. It supports the target of 25% of EU agricultural land under organic farming and a substantial increase in organic aquaculture by 2030.

The Commission is pleased that the Camera Deputaților supports the Action Plan. The Action Plan contains actions relevant for most Recommendations in the Opinion. Some of those actions are foreseen to be taken solely at EU level, others involve collaboration with the Member States. Some of the Recommendations cannot be addressed through the

¹ For instance, for Recommendation 2, Action 19.1 on support for the preservation and use of genetic resources; for Recommendation 4, Action 1.2 on collecting data about the environmental, economic and social benefits of organic farming and informing citizens, including farmers, and Action 1.3 on measuring consumers' awareness of the EU organic logo; for Recommendation 5, Action 14 on reinforcing local and small-volume processing and fostering short trade circuits; for Recommendation 6, a number of research and innovation actions throughout the action plan that allow for multi-actor research and innovation projects; for Recommendation 7, the different actions in the Action Plan mentioning AKIS (Actions 9.1, 19.3, 20.2); for Recommendation 8, Action 1.2 (see above), as well as Action 9.2 on education and training; for Recommendation 9, Action 2.3 on raising awareness of export opportunities; for Recommendation 11, Action 4 on the review of the EU school scheme, which includes educational activities; for Recommendation 12, Action 14 (see above), as well as Action 12.2 on addressing unfair trading practices; for Recommendation 13, Action 12.2 on organic producer organisations and Action 13 on group certification; for Recommendation 15, Action 1.2 (see above).

Action Plan but can be addressed via, for instance, the rural development measures under the Common Agricultural Policy² or via action at national level.³

The success of the Action Plan in particular but also the future growth of the organic sector in general will depend to an important extent on action at national level. That is why the Commission has called on Member States to develop comprehensive strategies on organic production tailored to national circumstances⁴ and to translate them operationally into their national strategic plans for the next Common Agricultural Policy and into complementary national organic action plans.

It is only by taking action at all levels of public governance (EU, national, regional, local), as well as all along the private value chain (organic producers, processors, wholesalers, retailers, etc.), that the continued growth of the organic sector can be ensured.

The Commission welcomes the support of the Camera Deputaților and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

Maroš Šefčovič Vice-President Janusz Wojcziechowski Member of the Commission

² For instance, Recommendation 3.

³ For instance, Recommendations 10 and 14.

⁴ In accordance with Recommendation 16.