



Günther H. Oettinger

Cc: Frans Timmermans, Phil Hogan, Karmenu Vella, Miguel Arias Cañete and Jyrki Katainen

European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels

13th April 2018

Dear Commissioner Oettinger,

We are writing to you regarding the future Multiannual Financial Framework, specifically, concerning the **allocation of funds for environmental and climate action within the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**.

Regrettably, **the EU is not currently on track to meet several of its environmental and climate objectives**, such as halting the decline of biodiversity by 2020 and achieving good status of water bodies, and addressing this requires joint action in several policy areas. Agriculture remains a key driver of environmental damage, with rapidly mounting evidence on the collapse of insect and bird populations in Member States linked to agricultural practices, along with severe pressures from farming on water, soils and greenhouse gas emissions. The Paris Climate Agreement requires a significant boost to the EU climate action, including in the field of agriculture and land use.

Within this context, the European Commission's Communication on the Future of Food and Farming announced that the future CAP would enhance its EU added value by reflecting a higher level of environmental and climate ambition. Keeping this promise implies that more funds must be legally ring-fenced within the CAP budget for environmental and climate action.

Taking into account that currently 30% of the overall CAP budget is earmarked for this purpose, **ring-fencing for environmental and climate measures within the future CAP should be increased to 50% of the total CAP budget**. Within this, at least 15bn euros per annum would have to be ring-fenced to meet biodiversity objectives related to agriculture, as set out in the EU's existing environmental legislation.

We would like to stress that a **strong or 'enhanced' conditionality in the CAP—whilst necessary to ensure that the overall CAP does not actively harm the climate and the environment— must not be confused with actual, dedicated spending necessary to deliver on the agreed objectives**.

We very much hope that you will respond to our concerns and remain at your disposal for any follow up meetings on the basis of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Andrea Kohl
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Office

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