

Mr. Rumen Porodzanov
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry
5, Hristo Botev Blvd.
1040 Sofia
Bulgaria

Subject: Request to Bulgarian Presidency for meeting ahead of 19 February AGRI Council

Dear Minister,

The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and BirdLife Europe are writing to ask you for an opportunity to address Ministers ahead of the upcoming Agriculture and Fisheries Council of February 19th, in which the future CAP will be discussed with a particular focus on the environment.

First of all we would like to thank you for having made public the last meeting of Ministers on the future CAP and are grateful that this will apply to the next ones. It is indeed of paramount importance that the discussions on such an important policy for citizens and farmers alike are made accessible to the wide public.

We strongly believe that the future CAP must properly address the environmental challenges facing the farming sector and meet citizens' expectations, as expressed in the recent public consultation on the future of CAP. To this end, it is of paramount importance to allow for joint thinking with environmental stakeholders to set our future farming policy on the right path from the start. Including the environmental authorities and environmental stakeholders properly in the debate can only allow for win-win situations in the future, contributing to a policy design that fits the need for sustainable management of natural resources.

As part of our constructive engagement in the CAP debate, we are proposing concrete solutions for a smooth transition to a results oriented policy, where setting the appropriate environmental objectives and targets will help the next policy to be on the right track to sustainability. The right level of environmental expertise and above all scientific evidence is a prerequisite for a successful CAP. As we understand that other stakeholder groups regularly have the opportunity to address Ministers prior to the Council meeting, we would welcome an opportunity to share our knowledge and experience with you and the other Ministers, ideally ahead of the Council meeting on the 19th however if not possible at the next Council meeting given the ongoing relevance of the topic.

We very much hope you will take our demand into consideration. Should you need any further clarification, we would be happy to answer your questions.

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy Wates
EEB Secretary General (On behalf of the EEB and BirdLife Europe)