



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate C – CAP Strategic Plans I
The Director

Brussels

Subject: Resolution of Kilkenny County Council (Ireland) regarding support for the IFA “Enough is Enough” campaign

Ref.: Letter Ares(2024)3258062 received on 3 May 2024

Dear Madam,

Thank you for your letter dated 3 May 2024 to the President of the European Commission, Ms. Ursula von der Leyen, who asked me to reply on her behalf. In your letter, you inform us that in April 2024, Kilkenny County Council members passed a resolution supporting the ‘Enough is Enough’ campaign of the Irish Farmers Association (IFA). This resolution calls on the Irish Government to introduce no further regulations on farmers or any measures that may increase costs on farms without full negotiation and agreement with the IFA. The resolution also asks the European Union and the Irish Government to provide additional stand-alone funding, separate to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), to support farmers to undertake climate and biodiversity measures.

The Commission services have taken good note of the concerns you express in the said resolution, in particular as regards the last point thereof.

As a result of a thorough analysis to identify potential areas for improvement for farmers in the new CAP 2023-2027, the Commission presented a first set of simplification measures at the meeting of EU Agriculture ministers on 26 February 2024. These measures build upon the Member States’ proposals gathered by the Council Presidency and include clarifications and modifications of environmental requirements, the use of the clause on force majeure and exceptional circumstances, as well as the review of the monitoring and control mechanisms applicable under the CAP 2023- 2027.

Ms. Anne Maria Walsh
Meetings Administrator
Kilkenny County Council
Corporate Services Department
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I am pleased to inform you that the Commission services have also launched a study on the simplification of the CAP 2023-2027. This study includes a survey to ask farmers directly about CAP aspects that could be simplified. I trust that many farmers in Ireland participated in this survey which was open for contributions until 8 April 2024.

Moreover, on 15 March 2024, the European Commission published a legislative proposal to review certain provisions of the CAP and thus deliver simplifications for EU farmers, while maintaining a strong, sustainable, and competitive policy for EU agriculture and food. The proposal aims to reduce the burden related to controls for EU farmers and provide them with greater flexibility for complying with certain environmental and other requirements arising from the CAP 2023-2027. National administrations will also benefit from greater flexibility to apply certain standards. The proposal was just adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in co-decision procedure.

The European Union currently has several measures in place to strengthen the position of farmers in the food supply chain and contribute to a fair remuneration of farmers. The effective implementation of these tools by private operators and their enforcement by national authorities remain crucial to ensure that farmers profit from their full potential. One of the key challenges is the transparency of prices and margins for the different operators in the agri-food sector. This is why the Commission services presented at the meeting of Agriculture ministers on 26 March 2024 a reflection paper listing several short and medium-term initiatives to reinforce cooperation, transparency, contractualization and governance, including through an improvement of the legislation in force. For instance, the EU agri-food chain observatory has been launched on 9 April 2024. It will observe production costs, margins, and trading practices in the EU food supply chain, involving the Commission services, Member States and stakeholders. The reflection paper also refers to targeted amendments to EU rules, in particular the CMO (Common Market Organisation) Regulation, a new Regulation on cross-border enforcement of the Directive on Unfair Trading Practices (UTP) and an evaluation of this Directive by 2025.

In respect of additional funding for farmers to undertake climate and biodiversity measures, the Commission services recall that the CAP has supported farmers for decades. The European Union's strong support to farmers is evidenced by the significant budget allocated to the CAP for the 2021-2027 period. The total budget allocated to the basic income support for Irish farmers under the 2023-2027 CAP Strategic Plan is around EUR 3.6 billion. The payment per hectare in Ireland under the basic income support for sustainability (BISS) is still among the highest paid to farmers across the European Union. However, the Commission services will continue to monitor the situation of farmers and may submit additional proposals.

Looking beyond all those measures that might be applicable in the short term, I would like to remind you that the Commission has launched the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture in the European Union.

A total of 30 experts, representing different groups of European stakeholders, including farmers representatives, will contribute to developing a common vision which will allow progress towards building a new European agricultural and food system, with a view to reducing polarisation and improving its competitiveness and sustainability.

Yours faithfully,



Christina Borchmann

Cc: Brenda Kelly