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| European Parliament  2019-2024 |  |

<Commission>{PETI}Committee on Petitions</Commission>

<Date>{16/09/2019}16.9.2019</Date>

<TitreType>NOTICE TO MEMBERS</TitreType>

Subject: <TITRE>Petition No 0035/2019 by Evangelos Tsiompanidis (Greek) on an alleged plan for the “retirement” of sheep and goats in Greece against a large subsidy</TITRE>

**1. Summary of petition**

<TEXTE>The petitioner reports a big commotion in the breeders' sector in Greece as of late, following the publication of numerous press reports according to which the EU is considering subsidizing the “retirement” of sheep and goats in Greece in order to promote the interests of the northern dairy-producing Member States. He calls on the Commission to confirm whether or not there is any substance to these reports in order to reassure the farmers of Greece about their future.</TEXTE>

**2. Admissibility**

Declared admissible on 5 April 2019. Information requested from Commission under Rule 227(6).

**3. Commission reply**, received on 16 September 2019

The petitioner refers to the recent publication of numerous press reports which, in his view, suggest that the EU is considering subsidizing the “retirement” of sheep and goats in Greece in order to promote the interests of the northern dairy-producing Member States.

He calls on the Commission to confirm whether or not there is any substance to these reports in order to reassure the farmers of Greece about their future.

The publications in the Greek press mentioned by the petitioner do not reflect the content of the Commission’s proposal for the post-2020 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), presented on 1 June 2018[[1]](#footnote-1). These proposals are now in the process of interinstitutional decision-making with the co-legislators. The proposals do not introduce any measure to pay farmers for the abandonment of livestock production.

On the contrary, the Commission proposal provides that Member States will submit CAP Strategic Plans in which they will describe the interventions they have designed, under the types of interventions set in the EU legislation, to address the specific needs they have identified. Amongst the types of interventions proposed by the Commission, there is for example the coupled income support, which could also be available to the sheep and goat sector. Moreover, the legal proposal also provides for sectoral interventions via Producer Organisations (POs) in view of making sectors in need more resilient.

In addition, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development can support a vast range of interventions that livestock farmers could benefit from, namely investments, training, advice and exchange of knowledge, as well as participation in quality schemes and innovative actions.

Conclusion

The Commission’s post-2020 CAP proposal provides for flexibility for Member States in designing interventions to better respond to the specific needs of their farmers, including those of the sheep and goat sector, and the needs of rural communities.

1. COM(2018) 392 final. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)