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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
THE CHAIRMAN

Ms Eider GARDIAZABAL RUBIAL
General Rapporteur for the 2015 budget
European Parliament
ASP 11 G 342
Rue Wiertz 60
B-1047 Bruxelles

Ref.: IPOL-COM-AGRI

Subject: Presentation of the priorities of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development for the 2015 budget

Dear colleague,

Further to your wishes expressed in your note, to communicate the priorities of the specialised committees on the 2015 budget in form of a letter rather than producing an opinion, I am pleased to inform you of the priorities of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development has decided that the following priorities should be incorporated in the Mandate for Trilogue, following a proposal from the AGRI rapporteur on the 2015 budget Mr Rares Lucian NICULESCU:

- ❖ points out that agriculture delivers many set EU objectives and is an important part of the 2015 budget; calls therefore for the agriculture budget to remain at least at its current level,
- ❖ reiterates that 2015 will be the first year of full implementation of the CAP reform; calls for sufficient funds to be made available in order to implement all elements of the CAP reform, e.g. greening, etc,
- ❖ stresses that agriculture frequently addresses new challenges, such as biodiversity, climate change etc, which requires constantly aligned funds,
- ❖ notes the cuts in funding for rural development under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) in commitments and payments for the 2014 budget; highlights the vital importance of the EAFRD that gives wider benefits to the EU at

large and asks that careful consideration is given to the final level of commitments and payments appropriations in the 2015 Budget,

- ❖ insists that some specific agricultural sub-sectors are in need of improved funds, e.g. bee keeping; highlights the importance of school milk and school fruit programmes,
- ❖ welcomes the fact that agriculture is such a vital part of the EU 2020 strategy
- ❖ highlights the importance of Pilot Projects, e.g. European Price Monitoring Observatory, to the Committee and asks for continued support,
- ❖ asks to ensure that funds allocated to the crisis reserve in the agricultural sector of the 2015 budget which are left unspent are fully made available as direct payments in the following budgetary year,
- ❖ points out that significant price volatility of agricultural products can have an adverse effect on farmer's income,
- ❖ highlights the objectives to increase the competitiveness and sustainability of European agriculture and asks to make resources available to meet these objectives,

On behalf of the Members of the Committee on Agriculture and rural development, and in agreement with political groups coordinators I would like to invite you to present the 2015 budget at one of our Committee meetings.

We look forward to receiving a draft of the mandate for Trilogue and your presence at one of our meetings to present it, and to engage in an exchange of views with our Members.

Yours sincerely,

Paolo de Castro