



**2018/0166R(APP)**

12.7.2018

# **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

for the Committee on Budgets

on the Interim report on MFF 2021-2027 – Parliament's position in view of an agreement

2018/0166R(APP)

Rapporteur for opinion: Peter Jahr



## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its report:

1. Emphasises that the common agricultural policy (CAP) plays a crucial role in delivering key EU objectives such as food security; points out that the rules with which farmers must comply governing food, health and environmental protection have increased, while the relative share of agriculture in the EU budget keeps declining;
2. Reiterates its call for the CAP budget to be maintained in the 2021-2027 MFF at least at the level of the 2014-2020 budget for the EU-27 in real terms, given the fundamental role of this policy; reaffirms its view that agriculture must not suffer any financial disadvantage as a result of political decisions such as the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU or the funding of new European policies;
3. Disagrees with the Commission's proposal for the next MFF, which would entail substantial cuts to the CAP; highlights the fact that the extent of the cuts varies according to the parameters used for the comparison; disagrees with the Commission's approach of providing two calculation methods for the MFF (current vs constant);
4. Stresses the importance of direct payments as well as second-pillar funds for farmers; deplores in particular the severe cuts envisaged for the second pillar of the CAP, which makes a significant contribution to investment and employment in rural areas; stresses that it cannot be taken for granted that national co-funding will fill the budget gap;
5. Reiterates its call for a reform of the EU's own-resources system; stresses the need to safeguard duties on agricultural products as a source of revenue for the EU budget;
6. Stresses that an indirect boost to income can also be achieved through a real reduction in red tape for farmers in the CAP;
7. Welcomes the Commission's proposal to allow the carry-over of crisis reserve funds; regrets the fact that the initial amounts to be used to constitute the fund will not be sourced from outside the CAP budget but will instead be taken from direct payments in 2020 and will not be paid back to farmers.