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*Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development  
The Chair*

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15.4.2019

Mr Jean Arthuis  
Chair  
Committee on Budgets  
BRUSSELS

Subject: Opinion on mandate for trilogue on Budget 2020 (2019/2010(BUD))

Dear Chair,

Under the procedure referred to above, the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development has been asked to submit an opinion to your committee.

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development considered the matter and decided to call on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its mandate for trilogue.

1. Highlights the important role that both agriculture and rural development play in achieving Community objectives in the fields of food security, sustainable economic growth, territorial and environmental balance, animal welfare and combating climate change;
2. Advocates stability for the agriculture budget, and hence opposes any cuts to it in the 2020 budget, especially in view of the serious crises and price volatility experienced by the agricultural sector in recent years;
3. Expresses concern at the consequences that any failure of the ongoing negotiations on the United Kingdom leaving the European Union could have for the 2020 budget;
4. Urges the Member States to strengthen support measures for young farmers in 2020, given the lack of generational renewal in farming, which is currently European agriculture's main pitfall;

5. Insists that any revenue to the Union budget deriving from any assigned revenues or repayments of irregularities from agriculture in previous years should remain under Heading 2;
6. Expresses its satisfaction at the increase in appropriations intended to combat animal diseases and plant pests, as the Union is facing significant risks and increased outbreaks;
7. Welcomes the increased support for research and innovation dedicated to the supply of safe and high quality food; stresses that it is essential that funds earmarked for research in the agri-food sector, in particular from the Horizon 2020 budget, remain fully available as such in order to stimulate innovation and smart solutions in the agricultural and rural development sectors;
8. Underscores the importance of pilot projects and preparatory actions for innovation in the agricultural and rural development sectors: asks for continued support for ongoing and new pilot projects and preparatory actions.

Yours sincerely,

Czesław Adam SIEKIERSKI