

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003941/20  
to the Commission**

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(2 July 2020)

*Subject:* Implications of CAP transition period for the Recovery Fund

The Commission Recovery Fund proposal presented on 27 May effectively increases the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), earmarking a specific amount for farming. A Council decision is still being awaited regarding the increase proposed by the Commission. Under the proposal, however, funding is only to be made available in 2022 and not in 2021. The delay is arising from the need to incorporate the projected measure into the new national CAP strategies.

Given that the CAP transition period is to be two years — one year longer than the Commission's initial proposal — it is expected that the EAFRD increase in response to the 2020 crisis will, under the current recovery fund proposal, only be available from 2023.

In view of this:

1. Will the Commission rethink its decision to disallow provision of support during the CAP transition period?
2. In line with the new green architecture approach, will it offer additional forms of aid to this sector in response to the crisis during the transition period?

**Answer given by Mr Wojciechowski on behalf of the European Commission**

(9 September 2020)

The conclusions of the European Council of 17-21 July 2020 endorse the Commission proposal to establish a European Union Recovery Instrument to support the recovery in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Based on these European Council conclusions, an amount of EUR 7.5 billion (in 2018 prices) would be allocated to the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) under Next Generation EU Fund. This additional funding is intended as EAFRD allocations for 2022 and 2023. In anticipation of this extra funding, EAFRD support in 2021 under the core Multiannual Financial Framework is foreseen to be frontloaded.

The Commission will work constructively with the co-legislators to integrate the Next Generation EU funding for rural development into the rules for the common agricultural policy for post-2020, whilst respecting the overall aims and legal constraints of the funding under Next Generation EU. In that context, the Commission also wants to recall its position on the length of the transitional period, which should remain limited to 2021.

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