



*Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development
The Chair*

30.3.2020

Mr Johan Van Overtveldt
Chair
Committee on Budgets
BRUSSELS

Subject: Opinion on a safety net to protect the beneficiaries of EU programmes: setting up an MFF contingency plan (2020/2051(INL))

Dear Mr Van Overtveld,

Under the procedure referred to above, the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development has been asked to submit an opinion to your committee. On 27 March 2020, the committee decided to send the opinion in the form of a letter by written procedure.

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development considered the matter by written procedure on 27 March 2020. It decided to call on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) Norbert Lins

SUGGESTIONS

- having regard to the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 October 2019 laying down certain transitional provisions for the support by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) in the year 2021 and amending Regulations (EU) No 228/2013, (EU) No 229/2013 and (EU) No 1308/2013 as regards resources and their distribution in respect of the year 2021 and amending Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013, (EU) No 1306/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013 as regards their resources and application in the year 2021¹,
- A. whereas the Commission has already proposed, on 31 October 2019, a regulation laying down certain transitional provisions for the support of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EARFD) and by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) in the year 2021 and amending other relevant regulations;
- B. whereas the transitional measures proposed for the EARFD and EAGF are set to guarantee payments to beneficiaries after the period covered under the current MFF, and taking into account it contains specific provisions that have to be decided by the co-legislators;
- C. whereas this proposal could serve as a basis for similar transitional provisions for other programmes, not just in a sense of technical solutions but also as an example of positive effects such proposals have on the stability of the sectors concerned;
- D. whereas in the proposal for the transitional measures for the CAP, the Commission followed the principle of extending the current rules and allowing the opportunity to use new money, without introduction of new rules, which could prove crucial for timely adoption of the transitional measures;
- E. whereas during the transitional period the agri-food sector will be expected to fulfil all existing requirements, therefore, the current level of CAP funding should be maintained as a minimum.

ANNEX TO THE MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO THE CONTENT OF THE PROPOSAL REQUESTED

A. PRINCIPLES AND AIMS OF THE PROPOSAL

1. The MFF contingency plan shall take into consideration the precedent set for the financing of the CAP after 2020, where the Commission already proposed transitional measures for the EARDF and the EAGF, notably by extending current rules and without introducing elements from the negotiations of new sectorial programmes, unless absolutely necessary.

¹ COM(2019)581.