6.9.2023

Mr Johan Van Overtveldt,
Chair Committee on Budgets
SCHOLL 05U012
Brussels

IPOL-COM-AGRI D (2023) 29741

Subject: Opinion on Informal opinion on the interim report on the proposal for a mid-term revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 (2023/0201R(APP))

Dear Mr Chair,

Under the procedure referred to above, the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) has been asked to submit an opinion in the form of a letter to the Committee on Budgets. At its meeting of 28 June 2023, the committee decided to send the opinion in the form of a letter. However, due to the time constrain and the limited impact that this revision has on agriculture and rural development, [please receive it as a simple letter and informal opinion that was endorsed by written procedure by the coordinators on .... 2023].

The AGRI committee welcomes that the Commission proposed a revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 and that it came to the same conclusions as Parliament did in its Resolution of December 2022. In that regard, I would like to reiterate the opinion of the AGRI committee as regards the negative consequences of inflation, in particular for smaller and young farmers, in reducing the real-terms value of direct payments and the difficulties to invest under the rural development fund.

The AGRI committee also takes good note of the draft interim report published on 20 July 2023, in particular the overall assessment of the Commission proposal and its recommendations and modifications. Agriculture and Rural development funds are the main policy affected by the EUR 74 billion real-terms value reduction of the MFF over the seven-year period. Thus, the AGRI committee calls on the Committee on Budgets to request the Council to increase the ceilings of Heading 3 to remedy this loss in due proportion and in
order to give a clear signal in support of the Union’s food security, the fair implementation of the common agricultural policy and the green and digital transitions.

We also recall the fact that the agricultural reserve has been fully used, in particular to tackle the markets disturbances that occurred following the Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine.

The AGRI committee welcomes the proposal establishing the Ukraine facility for which we have been asked to submit an opinion in due time.

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development therefore calls on the Committee on Budgets to propose that the Parliament adopts its position taking into consideration the above reflexions.

Yours sincerely,

Norbert Lins