1. The Commission is very well aware of the difficult situation that all farmers, including potato producers are facing in this period. After two years of pandemic and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the inflationary pressure on costs of logistics, energy and other inputs represents a real challenge. The Commission is continuously monitoring market developments in all Member States (MS) including Bulgaria and is acting on an urgency and priority basis.

2. The Commission adopted a new self-standing Temporary Crisis Framework in March 2022 to enable Member States to address the impact from Russia’s military aggression. This framework includes State aids, in form of direct grants or liquidity, to producers affected by the crisis (such as those affected by significant increases in input costs, in particular feed and fertiliser).

3. The interventions in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plans are designed and planned by the Member States based on a thorough analysis and wide consultation of stakeholders in order to answer to the needs of their agricultural sectors in the most effective way while achieving the CAP objectives. It is therefore up to Bulgaria to see whether and how to support the potato sector.

Finally, as announced in the Communication ‘Safeguarding food security and reinforcing the resilience of food systems’¹, the Commission is now providing exceptional adjustment aid for producers in agricultural sectors, under which, Member States can add national support to up twice the extraordinary EU funds allocated to them. Member States have to decide the most appropriate measures and the most affected sectors to which such support will be granted and may include potatoes where pertinent.