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NOTE FOR THE FILE

**Subject: Meeting between CAB AGRI and Representatives of BAYER
CropScience - F2F and Biodiversity Strategies - 24 July 2020**

Participants:

- Representatives of Bayer CropScience [Personal Data Protection]
- European Commission - AGRI: C. Geslain-Laneelle (Deputy Head of Cabinet), J. Pinto Antunes (Member of Cabinet), [Personal Data Protection]

Main issues:

- COVID-19 crisis: Bayer has not reported any major supply problems, although the crisis will affect Bayer's operations as a global company (e.g. due to biofuels in the US). Compared to others, Bayer in Europe is doing rather well, thanks to the EU's rapid response.
- Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies: the Commission recalled the objectives on pesticide use: to reduce dependence on pesticides, while drastically reducing the use of high-risk pesticides. Bayer indicated that this forces the company to reinvent itself, particularly as a provider of solutions. Prior to the publication of the strategies, sustainability was already an issue to be integrated into Bayer's activities by aiming to reduce the impact of pesticides by 30 % by 2030. In this respect, the question of measuring the reduction is of major importance. Bayer is working on the development of a measurement indicator based on the work of the University of Copenhagen. EU Harmonised Risk Indicators (HRIs) are not an ideal path but a starting point. Bayer acknowledged the need for sharing data, in particular on the use of pesticides, to properly inform policy decisions. Bayer presented its views on the means to achieve the ambitious goals of the Green Deal:
 - First enabler: the process of bringing new solutions to the market should be faster (on average 6-7 years to be placed on the market), too long for innovation to

be brought to market. More predictability and efficiency are needed: no need for new regulation, but rather an acceleration of the process at Member State level.

o Second enabler: the development of digital agriculture. The Commission recalled all ongoing initiatives in this direction (digital strategy, white paper on artificial intelligence, broadband development, long-term vision for rural areas, future CAP).

For Bayer, its activities will become sustainable when agriculture becomes sustainable, which means improving economic, environmental and social performance in a balanced way. This will require EU societies to agree on the necessary trade-offs between economic and environmental performance (e.g. regarding organic products and their impact on climate change).

- CAP Strategic Plans: the Commission asked Bayer about their involvement in discussions between stakeholders and national authorities on their CAP Strategic Plan. Bayer confirmed its participation in CAP discussions in some Member States.
- Climate change: Bayer indicated its participation in a pilot project underway in the United States on the development of a carbon credit system accessible to farmers. A good carbon accounting system is also needed in the EU. Bayer is working on it and wants to help farmers to participate. The Commission showed interest in this type of work.

Personal Data Protection

c.c.:

C. Geslain-Laneelle, J. Pinto Antunes, Personal Data Protection