Conclusions
from the meeting of the Committee on Agriculture delegations
of the Visegrad Group countries’ parliaments
Warsaw 14 May 2021

Out of scope

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European Green Deal and the EU sectoral “Farm to Fork” strategy

We recognize that the overarching objective of agriculture is to guarantee food security for EU society. We support the objectives of the “Farm to Fork” Strategy, which aims at creating a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system. A general description of initiatives and EU lines of action, planned in the coming years, is aimed at reducing the environmental impact of agriculture. These are very ambitious objectives, beneficial from the viewpoint of sustainable

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1 A two year period for gathering experience, possibility of managing unused funds, as well as balancing the limit with expenditure for environmental measures in the second pillar of the CAP and calculating the level based on the allocation prior to the transfer of funds from the second pillar of the CAP.
development, but requiring significant adjustments on the part of farmers, the food industry, trade, also the industry of inputs for agriculture, science and education, advisory services and consumers. We believe that setting overambitious reduction objectives can reduce the agricultural production in the EU and diminish its contribution to global food security. We are of opinion that if organic farming development plans are to create new jobs and attract young farmers, while contributing to the protection of biodiversity, it is necessary to provide financing at a sufficiently high level. We propose to reach an agreement on average indicators for the application of pesticides, fertilizers and antibiotics, which are common for all EU. We regret the absence of Commission commitment on the holistic and combined impact analysis of the Farm to Fork Strategy objectives on the agri food sector, and, therefore, we call on the Commission to provide comprehensive and impact study in order to use this proposal to set out a holistic common food policy aimed at reducing the environmental and climate footprint of the EU food chain in order to make Europe the first climate neutral continent by 2050.

We would like to point out that it is important to distribute the burden of achieving the Strategy’s objectives evenly among all links in the chain, so as not to place an excessive burden on small and medium-sized farms, which are the most vulnerable in the food supply chain. At the same time, it is necessary to provide adequate financial support from the EU which will make it possible to transit to more sustainable production systems and thus will empower them in the food supply chain.