



Subject: EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the 'Farm to Fork' Strategy

Dear Presidet Ursula von der Leyen,
Dear Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis,
Dear Vice President Dubravka Šuica,
Dear Vice President Margaritis Schinas,
Dear Commissioner Johannes Hahn,
Dear Commissioner Phil Hogan,
Dear Commissioner Mariya Gabriel,
Dear Commissioner Stella Kyriakidou,
Dear Commissioner Adina Vălean,

I write to you regarding an urgent matter, namely the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the 'Farm to Fork' Strategy, which we understand are due to be adopted by the College of Commissioners on 20 May.

As you are well aware, our farmers are facing immense challenges to provide all of us with food, while having to contend with the very serious constraints caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The agricultural markets are being severely impacted as traditional supply chains and consumption behaviour have changed abruptly. Further difficulties arise due to travel and quarantine restrictions, hindering seasonal workers from traveling across borders. Contending with these circumstances is stretching our agri-food system to the limit

The Commission's support package to aid the sector in these unprecedented circumstances falls well short of what is required. EU farmers are making clear their extreme disappointment. The Commission has allocated a mere 80 million euros to support the agricultural market, while the United States has already allocated 19 billion dollars. Therefore, it is absolutely essential that we do not make matters worse through the imposition of new rules and restrictions on our farmers.

Our political group has always supported sustainable agriculture and we are not afraid of the challenges that will result from the Green Deal, but as EPP AGRI coordinator, I believe it is essential that the publication of the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the 'Farm to Fork' Strategy be postponed until after the summer break, at the very earliest. We must deal with the current crisis now before being able to move on to consider longer-term strategies. We need to be in a situation that would allow Parliament to properly scrutinise the proposed new measures and this is clearly not possible at present. We know that the publication of these strategies will not be accompanied by the publication of concrete legislative proposals on the same day. But they will be announced, they will soon follow

and a very negative reaction from the farming community to their announcement - in the midst of a global pandemic - can be expected.

Yours sincerely,

Herbert Dorfmann, MEP
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Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development
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