



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Ursula von der Leyen
The President

Brussels, 26 OCT. 2020

Ares (2020) 4870328

Dear honourable Member,

I would like to thank you and your co-signatories for your letter of 16 September 2020.

In your letter, you express your concern that the European Council of last July did not formally support maintaining the current levels of the agricultural budget for the outermost regions under the multiannual financial framework 2021-2027 and you are requesting support in re-establishing the current level of funding. This relates more specifically to the agriculture programme of options specifically relating to remoteness and insularity (POSEI).

I would like to clarify that the European Commission remains fully committed to supporting the EU's outermost regions, taking into account their permanent constraints recognised in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

It is in this spirit that the European Commission had proposed to continue the EU's special support to the agriculture sector of the outermost regions through the POSEI programme, thus recognising and addressing the constraints that these particularly remote and vulnerable regions face.

Under the next multiannual financial framework, Member States' pre-allocations for the common agricultural policy support are foreseen to be distributed as per the Commission proposal of 2018 and taking into account the European Council conclusions of 21 July 2020, subject to the consent of the European Parliament.

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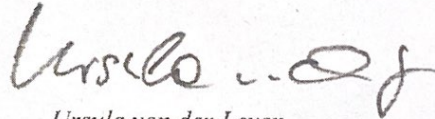
In 2018, the Commission had proposed a cut in the support to the outermost regions of 3.9%, as part of the initial Commission proposal, which for the overall envelope of the common agricultural policy included a cut of 5%, against the perspective of the UK withdrawal.

The July European Council conclusions underline the priority given by European Leaders to the direct payments to farmers and increase the budget for the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund accordingly.

The European Commission is keen to continue working with the European Parliament and the Council to reach swift agreement on the multiannual financial framework. It is ready to discuss and help the Member States concerned identify options for providing more support to the farmers in the outermost regions within their respective national allocations. Let me also assure you that the Commission will support an agreement, if co-legislators find a solution within Member States' respective national allocations as agreed by the European Council.

Looking forward to a fruitful co-operation in supporting the EU's outermost regions.

Yours faithfully,



Ursula von der Leyen