European Commission

The President

Brussels, 6 January 2026

Dear President Christodoulides, Dear President Metsola,

The Common Agricultural Policy in the 2028-2034 financial framework will continue to play its role as the main EU policy tool to provide farmers with a fair income, to ensure long-term food security and to improve the attractiveness and living standards in rural areas. While having access to a larger pool of resources in the National and Regional Partnership Plans, farmers will benefit from a ringfenced amount of EUR 293.7 billion. To ensure additional resources are available as of 2028 for addressing the needs of farmers and rural communities, I propose that Member States will have access when submitting their initial plan to up to two thirds of the amount normally available for the midterm review. This represents about EUR 45 billion that can be mobilised immediately to support farmers.

The ringfenced amounts for the Common Agricultural Policy and the early access to the midterm review resources will come in addition to the doubled amount of EUR 6.3 billion available for addressing market disturbances and stabilising agricultural markets, the so-called Unity Safety Net. In addition, farmers will benefit from the possibility to receive crisis payments out of the 10% flexibility amount in the National and Regional Partnership Plans in case of natural disasters, adverse climatic events or animal diseases.

../...

H.E. Mr Nikos Christodoulides
President of Cyprus
Presidency of the Council of the EU

Ms Roberta Metsola, President
European Parliament

Furthermore, to make sure that rural areas benefit from a comprehensive policy approach to respond to their challenges, at least 10% of the resources of each National and Regional Partnership Plan will have to be dedicated to supporting investments in those territories. Member States will allocate their rural target share to measures to be implemented in the agricultural sector at the initial stage of programming, similar to what happens in the current budget cycle, unless they decide for measures dedicated to rural areas. The rural target will amount to EUR 48.7 billion for rural areas, which might increase up to EUR 63.7 billion through the possibility offered by Catalyst Europe loans.

The combination of these policy and budgetary tools will provide the farmers and rural communities with an unprecedented level of support, in some respects even higher than in the current budget cycle, that will make the European agricultural sector more competitive and better able to face global challenges.

With the proposed changes in the legal text provided in annex to this letter, the Commission will continue to support the European Parliament and the Council in the process leading to the adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework.

Yours sincerely,

Ursula von der Leyen

Annex

In order to increase the resources available for the Common Agricultural Policy, the following changes could be made in Article 14:

New sub-paragraph at the end of paragraph 2(b): ***When submitting or amending its plan before the midterm review, Member States may use up to two thirds of the amount available for the midterm review for interventions referred to in Article 35(1) or for measures dedicated to rural areas.***