

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
THE CHAIR

Mr Janusz Wojciechowski
Commissioner for Agriculture
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels

D 306289 12.06.2020

IPOL-COM-AGRI D (2020)18034

I would like to thank you again for your participation in the fruitful discussion with Political Groups' Coordinators, organised on 9 June 2020, on the additional measures to be adopted by the Commission as a response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Coordinators welcomed your announcements as a further step in the right direction, but raised some additional points considered necessary in order to guarantee the smooth adoption of the Commission delegated regulation on temporary exceptional measures to address the market disturbance in the fruit and vegetable and the wine sectors.

Coordinators are committed to the EU very high standards for the wine sector and to our reputation on the world markets. However, considering the current crisis, they asked the Commission to explore for some flexibility for the wine sector concerning labelling rules on the harvest year, limited to the internal market.

At the same time, they asked for further clarification on the concrete possibility to use state aids to finance the measures that would be adopted by operators in accordance with article 222 of the Single CMO Regulation.

Moreover, other crucial topics were not mentioned in your presentation. I would then like to stress on behalf of the Coordinators the need to increase the EU co-financing rates for the fruit and vegetables operational funds, without any additional cost for the EU budget, and to extend the scope of actions, to be supported by the Wine National Support Programs, to wine-tourism activities, mirroring what is already allowed under the Rural Development Regulation, and in line with the objective of promoting local, cultural and rural tourism as announced by the Commission in its Communication 'Tourism and transport in 2020 and beyond'.

In addition, and in order to re-establish trust and dialogue between the Commission, the European Parliament and the wine sector, we call for the establishment of a High-Level Group to discuss the future and the recovery of the sector, and for the commitment on a review clause to evaluate the possibility to extend the current flexibilities and crisis measures beyond the end dates currently set.

A swift and satisfactory written confirmation of the actions the Commission intends to take, according to the above mentioned requests, will allow us to decide on the next procedural steps in line with rule 143 (9) of the European Parliament rules of procedure, as regards to the possibility of withdrawing a motion for resolution.

Dear Commissioner, our meeting this week showed how an open and closer collaboration can bring ambitious results to help farmers and the agri-food sector to continue to provide EU citizens with enough, safe and quality food. We remain confident this is the beginning of a constructive dialogue, which will accompany us in the coming years.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Norbert Lins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a distinct dot over the 'i' in "Lins".

Norbert Lins