

COMMUNICATION

Fair and equitable EU Common Agriculture Policy after 2013

The Parliament of the Republic of Latvia (Saeima)

welcomes the policy papers of the European Council, that express the commitment to ensure fair competition within the European Union, as well as the view expressed by the European Commission in its Communication (November 18, 2010) that the direct payments of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) should be equitable and balanced and calculated taking into account economic and environmental criteria;

supports the Resolution adopted by the European Parliament regarding the CAP after 2013, which calls for a fair distribution of CAP funding across the European Union and objective criteria must be found in order to define a fair system of distribution.

concludes that the method of calculation of the direct payments after 2013 defined by Communication of Commission “A Budget for Europe 2020” (June 29, 2011) will not guarantee fair and equitable competition for the Latvian farmers with farmers from other EU Member states. In case of further substantial differences between Member States with regard to the amount of the direct payments, unjustified low direct payments will negatively affect practically almost whole Latvian population- producers and consumers- as well as the national economy in general.

reminds that Latvian farmers since 2004 are receiving the lowest level of direct payments in EU comparing to other Member States, which restricts Latvian farmers to exercise equitable opportunities within the European Common Market.

and **invites** EU Member States, European Parliament and the European Commission:

1. To establish such a CAP direct payment system that would ensure truly fair and equitable competition conditions for all farmers of the European Union;
2. To adjust the distribution of the direct payments defined by the Communication of the Commission “A Budget for Europe 2020” (June 29, 2011) in such a way to avoid substantial differences between the highest and lowest level of direct payments in European Union;
3. to set the amount of the direct payments for Latvia according to the new method of calculation in full use starting from January 1, 2014 due to the fact that the transition period for Latvia has already been applied from 2004 till the end of 2013;
4. To provide an adequate funding for both direct payments and rural development policy in order to promote sustainable development of agriculture and rural development within the European Union.

Speaker of the Saeima

S.Āboltiņa