



To:

Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture
Mrs. Julia Klöckner
Wilhelmstraße 54
10117 Berlin
Germany

OPEN LETTER

Berlin and Brussels, 10 July 2020

Priorities for the German Presidency Agriculture Council: bringing the CAP in line with the Green deal

Dear Federal Minister Klöckner,

You and your government are about to embark on one of the most challenging presidencies in the last few years—as Europe deals with the profound impacts of the COVID19 pandemic and finalises negotiations on a trade deal with the United Kingdom.

In the midst of these current events, Europe's leaders have recognised that there is another more fundamental and lingering crisis: the climate and biodiversity one. This has been made obvious for example through extreme weather events—such as the third summer in a row of drought in Germany— bringing severe consequences for production systems as well as the ecosystems that underpin them. The agricultural sector is not just contributor to some of these problems, it also is the first one to suffer their consequences and most importantly can bring real and long lasting solutions. Therefore, your big challenge will be to make the German presidency about showing a positive way forward for both the sector and society that sets Europe's food systems on a resilient and sustainable path.

For several decades, BirdLife Europe, together with its largest member and German partner NABU, have been working on nature, climate and the wider environment, especially, but not only, in the agricultural sector. In this letter, we would like to convey to you what we believe are the key issues on which you could take leadership during your presidency, for a start with the first AGRIFISH Council on the 20th July:

1. Making the European Green Deal—and the resulting strategies of Farm to Fork and Biodiversity—the common thread of your presidency. Ensure that the Commission will be encouraged to start an ambitious workplan for its realisation, including the integration of these strategies into the EU's Common Agricultural Policy.

2. Lead the European Council to adopt an ambitious general approach on the Common Agricultural Policy by:

- setting a common baseline of at least 10% “space for nature” on all farms in the conditionality, without ineffective options like allowing production of certain crops on these areas
- ringfencing 50% for the environment and climate in each Pillar, with a specific allocation of 15bn.€ /year for biodiversity measures
- setting the sector on a path for a lasting transition to nature-friendly farming, in order to be better prepared to deal with the upcoming crises, be they health, nature or climate
- restoring the full set of indicators for the performance review as set in Annex I and ensure that CAP truly shifts towards a performance-based policy
- ensuring that the additional funding for the EAFRD from the Recovery Package is invested in a green transformation of the sector. It shouldn't be excluded from any environmental standards that apply to the rest of the EAFRD.

BirdLife Europe and its German partner NABU believe that the German presidency has the ability to turn these many challenges into opportunities, putting Europe on a path towards a sustainable and resilient economy that embodies an understanding of the importance and care for nature, the wider environment and climate. For this to be able to happen, we need agriculture ministers, under your leadership, to show great courage and lead the way out of this crisis towards a healthy future for farmers, society and nature.

Yours faithfully,

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