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Rome - May 9, 2022

Subject: support to your proposal on CAP postponement

Dear President, Dear Colleague,

With 1.6 million members Coldiretti is the main farmers organisation in Italy and among the largest in the European Union.

I am sending you this letter to express the support of Coldiretti to the request made by the Chambers of Agriculture of Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Lithuania, and Romania to postpone the start of the new Common Agricultural Policy to January 1, 2024.

The reference scenario has obviously changed radically, both in relation to the context in which the reform took place and to the moment in which the National Strategic Plans were conceived.

The agricultural sector is among those most sensitive to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine and its current importance for the overall security of European citizens, requires an adequate effort regardless of the inertia of the bureaucratic machine.

We believe that this step marks a distinction between a functioning democracy and the risk of a purely technocratic drift, and we hope that European Institutions will be able to seize this moment to open a new reflection on the future of policies for agri-food systems in the light of a geopolitical framework that, regardless of the duration and outcome of the current war, will be profoundly changed compared to today.

We are available to bring forward this proposal and to work with you to encourage also other European farmers organizations and not only to support the request coming from farmers, entrepreneurs, and agricultural workers of about one third of EU countries, which for history and geography are most affected by this war.

Thank you in advance for your attention and I look forward to your reply.

Kind regards,

Ettore Prandini
President of Coldiretti

