



**European Committee
of the Regions**

The President
The NAT Chair

Brussels, *date of official registration*
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Janusz Wojciechowski
Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development
European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Bruxelles / Brussel

Dear Commissioner,

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan regulation will define the governance of the future CAP within the New Delivery Model framework. The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) has repeatedly voiced its concerns on the role of regional authorities in the governance of the future CAP.

Today, many regional authorities have responsibilities as managing authorities for regional rural development programs. Such provisions have successfully allowed regional authorities to adapt rural development measures to local needs. The CoR fears that the newly proposed governance risks jeopardising all these achievements.

As the discussions on the role of regions in the future CAP enter the trilogue phase, we call on the co-legislators to ensure a comprehensive and common European approach to the governance of regional interventions in the future CAP. In this tragic phase for our economies, alongside continuing the constructive cooperation with your DG, we would join forces with you to avoid that a centralised CAP simplifies procedures but overlooks the actual needs of citizens and businesses on the ground. For the reform to succeed, regional authorities must be given a clear role in the CAP Plans' governance and in the management of rural development interventions as also supported by the European Parliament in its resolution on the CAP.

In our past exchanges, we could appreciate your strong attention and awareness of the challenges faced by rural communities. We are confident, that with your decisive support, we can find the best way to enable regions to continue playing their role in the preparation and management of future CAP strategic plans. We would therefore appreciate an exchange with you at your earliest convenience, ahead of the 26 April informal meeting of agriculture and fisheries ministers. We hope that your busy agenda will allow you to accept our invitation and we look forward to meeting you on this occasion.

Yours Sincerely,

Apostolos Tzitzikostas
President
of the European Committee of the Regions

Ulrika Landergren
Chair of the European Committee of the Regions'
Commission for Natural Resources (NAT)