



**European Committee
of the Regions**

The President
The NAT Chair

Brussels, *official date of registration*
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Maria do Céu Antunes
Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Portugal
Assembleia da República
Rua de São Bento
1249-068 Lisboa
Portugal

Dear Minister,

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 particular, we ask for the introduction of a clear role for regional authorities 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 these tragic months, the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU has shown a deep understanding of the regional and local dimension of EU policies as well as a strong support for the values of cohesion, solidarity and inclusive governance. This is why we are confident that EU's regions can rely on your precious contribution to promote a balanced solution, avoiding that a centralised CAP simplifies procedures but overlooks the actual needs of citizens and businesses on the ground.

In order to find the best way to enable regions to continue playing their role in the preparation and management of future CAP strategic plans, we would like to have 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)*