

Report of Conference on the Future of Europe Talk
organised by CoR Member **Adam Struzik** (Poland, EPP)

Conference on the future of Europe on the agricultural sector



Organised by:	Mazovia Region Office in Brussels Marshal's Office of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship in Warsaw
Partners:	Warmia-Mazury Regional Office in Brussels Polish Rural Youth Union (WICI)
Date and time of the event:	20/04/2022 : 10:00 - 12:30 (CET)
Event type:	Online
Location(s) of event	Warsaw / Mazovia / Poland
Total number of participants:	140
Type of participants:	civil society representatives; farmers' association; young farmers association
Name of CoR Members participating:	Adam Struzik (EPP) Gustav Marek Brzezina (EPP) Mariusz Frankowski (EPP)
Name(s) of representatives from other EU institutions	Adam Jarubas, Member of the European Parliament, Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) Maciej Golubiewski, Head of Cabinet of European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development
Name(s) of national ministers participating:	Joanna Gierulka, Director of the Common Agricultural Policy Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Name(s) of Young Elected Politicians (YEPs) participating:	Konrad Wojnarowski Polish People's Party Mariusz Frankowski Civic Platform
Conference on the Future of Europe theme(s) covered during the event:	Climate change and the environment Health A stronger economy, social justice and jobs Digital transformation

<p>Permanent Dialogue Mechanism:</p>	<p>1) The compulsory application of the definition of "active farmer" definition. Introduction of the definition will allow to regulate the method of selecting entities that are entitled to subsidies for agricultural activity, while excluding from the support those who have agricultural land at their disposal that is not used for agricultural activity. In Poland nearly 80% of the beneficiaries of subsidies are not farmers, but only land owners (which is confirmed by the Polish Academy of Sciences). This makes it impossible for real farmers to obtain full support or to implement agri-environmental programs on their farms. The European Commission should strive for proper implementation and application of this definition.</p> <p>2) In Poland the consumption of plant fertilizer products is approximately 40% higher than the EU average. The war in Ukraine is contributing to a surge in the price of plant fertilizers, of which Russia is the world's second largest exporter. As the total share of Russia and Belarus in fertilizer imports to Poland is 42%. The replacement of fertilizers imported from the east will be a huge challenge for the fertilizer industry in Poland. This is an unprecedented situation with many potential risks according to the farming community. Between fears of shortages and concerns about not being able to pay full price for fertilizer. In light of rising input costs such as fertilizers and energy there is an urgent need of a range of short-term and medium-term actions presented by the European Commission.</p> <p>3) The second pillar of the common agricultural policy (CAP) - the EU's rural development policy is designed to support rural areas and meet the wide range of economic, environmental and social challenges by supporting projects that aim to reduce economic disparities between farmers and different rural areas. The new CAP limits the support for projects in scope of the second pillar. Local and regional authorities call for changes to the second pillar of the CAP and increased funding for sustainable rural development. The LRA emphasize that such projects have a great impact on the standard and quality of life of rural residents. In the event of a reduction in investment spending on the development of public infrastructure in rural areas, these areas will be deprived of the possibility of further sustainable development.</p> <p>4) In connection with Russia's war in Ukraine. The regional farmers' association calls for a temporary postponement of the environmental measures connected with objectives of the EU's flagship food policy - the Farm to Fork strategy. The farmers stressed the need of lowering climate commitments at this time, that will eventually lead to better food security.</p>
<p>Hyperlinks to web / press / social media coverage:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) https://www.telewizjamazury.pl/wiadomosci/7996,konferencja-nt-sektora-rolnego 2) https://mazovia.pl/pl/rolnictwo/aktualnosci/debata-europejska-na-temat-przyszlosci-sektora-rolnego.html 3) https://polskieregiony.pl/konferencja-w-sprawie-przyszlosci-europy-na-temat-sektora-rolnego/ 4) https://swiatrolnika.info/wiadomosci/wiadomosci-rolnicze/wideokonferencja-w-sprawie-przyszlosci-europejskiego-sektora-rolniczego.html 5) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QgJSjMLOD8

