



Brussels 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019

## **Open letter to MEPs of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Parliament**

Dear MEPs,

ECVC awaits the position of the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development on the CAP reform after 2020, to be voted on in April.

In expectation of it, ECVC considers that it would be completely incomprehensible if COMAGRI did not propose a more ambitious position than that presented by the European Commission on a fairer distribution of CAP aid.

It would be a shame if the majority of COMAGRI MEPs were to position themselves, on issues such as Modulation, Capping and Redistributive Payment, in favour of the interests of less than 2% of the beneficiaries who receive more than 50,000 euros in direct payments alone (see attachment)).

It should be noted that under the current CAP, around 40% of the 11 million farms counted in the EU do not even benefit from CAP first pillar support.

Small and medium-sized farmers, together with other citizens stand alert to the position of the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.

*ECVC recalls the following:*

- › That in the European Union there are 11 million farms accounted for, and that 96% are family farms;
- › That of the 25.5 million people employed to work in agriculture in the EU, 24 million are employed by family farmers;
- › That more than 140 million people, 28% of the EU population, live in rural territories and benefit directly or indirectly from the existence of this small and medium-sized agriculture;

- › That it is this small and medium-sized agriculture that effectively brings and incorporates young people and their families into the rural world;
- › That it is these farmers who truly live and give life to rural territories, mainly because they do not export to other territories the value generated through their activity. They are the true engines of the local economy and other domains;
- › That in most EU countries, smaller farms have a higher standard gross margin per hectare (sales minus input costs), than larger farms.

We thank you in advance for giving the best attention to the above issues.

Best regards,

ECVC Coordinating Committee

Mr Jose Miguel Pacheco

Mr Andoni Garcia