



LITHUANIAN FARMERS' UNION

LITHUANIAN ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL COMPANIES

To: Members of COPA and COGECA Praesidia,
Mr Pekka Pesonen,
Secretary-General of COPA-COGECA

No. 18-09/227

11th, September 2018

Re: COPA and COGECA position on the CAP post 2020

By this letter we would like to recall that Lithuanian Farmers' Union and Lithuanian Association of Agricultural Companies in their letter of November 28, 2017 to Copa-Cogeca Praesidia (No. 5-2576) have made strong opposition to the wording used in Copa-Cogeca's position paper for the statement of external convergence of direct payments, namely: **"harmonizing the comparative level of direct payments between Member States, taking into account differences in conditions"**.

It should be acknowledged by Copa-Cogeca members that farmers in all EU Member States work under the same conditions: they operate on the Common (but not on a comparative) EU Market; they are subject to EU-wide (but not comparative) food safety and quality standards as well as general (but not comparative) environmental and other requirements.

The formulas so far proposed by the European Commission for convergence of direct payments with the EU average does not differ at all from Zeno's (Ancient philosopher's) „Achilles Paradox“. Thus, Lithuanian farmers and agricultural enterprises cannot accept it and seek for the equal treatment of farmers throughout the EU.

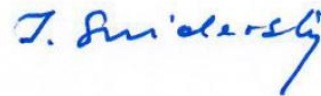
In February this year, a petition *"In a Union of equals, there can be no second class farmers!"* signed by over 52 thousands Lithuanian farmers was submitted to the European Parliament. It is recognised as a reasonable farmers' concern and is being closely examined by the Committee of Petitions at the moment. By this petition our farmers demand to stop the practice of division of EU farmers into first and second-class. Farmers in all EU Member States face the same challenges and the same commitments of the EU as the World Leader. It is the same burden that lies

on the shoulders of every farmer working in his fields or on his farm. And one "should earn the same pay for the same work in the same place" (President Jean-Claude Juncker's State of the Union Address 2017, 13th September 2017 Brussels http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-17-3165_en.htm)

Therefore, Lithuanian Farmers' Union and Lithuanian Association of Agricultural Companies repeat once again the unconditional expectations of Lithuanian farmers about the payments that should reach the average EU level in CAP 2020. We encourage COPA-COGECA members to stick to the average level of EU direct payments when expressing the position of farmers on support rates between Member States.



Jonas Talmantas
Chairman
Lithuanian Farmers' Union



Jonas Sviderskis
General Director
Lithuanian Association of Agricultural
Companies