

The Agriculture Committee of Italy's Chamber of Deputies,

Having examined, pursuant to the Chamber of Deputies Rule 127, the Proposal for a Regulation COM(2019)581;

Recalling the opinion issued on 20 February 2020 by the Committee on EU Policies;

Noting the considerations that emerged during the Committee hearings;

Whereas:

The protracted negotiations on the legislative proposals for the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2021-2027, characterised by diverging positions that have emerged on several issues, might delay the approval and the introduction of the new regime as of 2021;

At the same time, the negotiations on the Multi-Year Financial Framework (MFF) still appear to be far from a shared outcome because of the different positions that have emerged within the Council, including as regards the resources allocated to the CAP;

Italy's position is that it is necessary to guarantee adequate funding for the CAP in view of the role that agriculture plays in the economy, particularly with regard to protecting agricultural incomes as well as safeguarding the land, defending biodiversity and protecting the territory against hydrogeological instability and curbing the abandonment of inland areas;

Any reduction in resources for the CAP would also be inconsistent and unreasonable, considering that the European Commission has made the Green New Deal the priority objective of its work in the coming years;

The purpose of this Proposal for a Regulation is to ensure the continuity of certain elements of the 2014-2020 CAP in 2021, pending the introduction of the rules on the new CAP financial and legislative framework for the period 2021-2027;

To this effect, the Commission has proposed the adoption of transitional rules which, on the one hand, extend the application of the current legal framework while introducing innovations that partially discontinue with the existing regime and anticipate the outcome of the current negotiations on the MFF,

*Resolves to report*

### **A FAVOURABLE OPINION,**

*with the following qualifications:*

1. With regard to Article 1, the Committee welcomes the extension of the programmes supported by the European Agricultural Funds for Rural Development (EAFRD) until 31 December 2021. However, if negotiations cannot be concluded positively, and quite rapidly, on the new CAP, and more generally on the MFF, it should be automatically extended until 31 December 2022, without any further constraints or formalities;
2. With regard to Article 7, extending the application of support under articles 29 to 60 of Regulation (EU) 1308/2013, and Regulation (EU) 1306/2013, it is preferable for the current

provisions to be extended until 31 December 2021 for all sectors (olive oil and table olives, fruit and vegetables, winemaking and beekeeping), with a further extension until 2022 if the negotiations have not been concluded;

3. With regard to Article 10, relating to national and net ceilings for direct payments up to calendar year 2020 included, in order to remove current inequalities in the value of payment entitlements, it would be advisable for the internal convergence process to continue until 31 December 2021, with an extension to 2022 if negotiations are not concluded. At the same time, it would be appropriate to introduce a cap on the value of payment entitlements, as well as a threshold for the minimum payment, so that the value of the payment is higher, in terms of the financial burdens, than the cost of the administrative procedure for paying it;
4. Consideration should be given to the possibility of deferring the deadline, currently set at 31 December 2020, for conversion into authorisations of planting rights granted to producers until 31 December 2023;
5. It would be appropriate to consider the possibility of paying greater attention to farmers' risk management, either by changing the current system of calculating yields or by lowering the threshold for access to payment from 30% to 20% for mutualisation funds;
6. Consideration should be given to the possibility of including measures to support the resilience of agricultural enterprises exposed to the serious effects of extreme weather events and instability among the actions to combat climate change.