

Opinion on the “Proposal for a Regulation laying down certain transitional provisions for the support by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) in the year 2021” (COM(2019)581)

The Committee on EU Policies of Italy’s Chamber of Deputies,

having examined the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down certain transitional provisions for the support by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) in the year 2021 and amending Regulations (EU) No 228/2013, (EU) No 229/2013 and (EU) No 1308/2013 as regards resources and their distribution in respect of the year 2021 and amending Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013, (EU) No 1306/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013 as regards their resources and application in the year 2021 (COM/2019/581);

whereas:

in May 2018 the European Commission put forward its proposals for the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and, in June of the same year, a package of legislative proposals on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the same period;

in light of the protracted negotiations among Member States on the legislative proposals for the new 2021-2027 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which could delay their approval and the introduction of the new regime as of 2021, the European Commission has proposed the adoption of a package of measures aimed at defining the regime to be applied on a transitional basis, pending the adoption of the new performance framework contained in the CAP reform proposals and of those relating to the new Multiannual Financial Framework for the same period;

in this respect, the proposal for a regulation examined by the Committee aims at ensuring the continuity of specific elements of the 2014-2020 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) also in the year 2021;

considering that the negotiations on the 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;

noting the need to ensure adequate funding for the CAP during the negotiations, not least in view of the policies and measures provided for in the European Green Deal, which are aimed at making the EU's economy more sustainable in various sectors, including agriculture;

acknowledging that this opinion, together with the final document of the Committee responsible by subject-matter, needs to be transmitted promptly to the European Commission within the framework of the political dialogue, as well as to the European Parliament and the Council,

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A FAVOURABLE OPINION

with the following remarks:

the Committee responsible by subject-matter should consider raising the following points in the relevant European fora:

1. the need to reach final approval of the proposal for a regulation, provided that the negotiations on the new CAP 2021-2027 and, more generally, on the MFF for the same period are concluded as soon as possible, thus avoiding a further postponement, which would require a review of the content of the proposal, in order to provide for a further prorogation and extension of certain measures until the entry into force of the new system;
2. the need to ensure, within the framework of the said negotiations, adequate resources for the financing of the CAP, also in view of the measures provided for in the European Green Deal in the field of agriculture and given the impact of this sector on climate and the environment.