

Commissioner Dacian Cioloş
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049
Brussels

25 January 2011

Dear Dacian

FUTURE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY: JOINT RESPONSE FROM THE UK DEVOLVED ADMINISTRATIONS

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your consultation on the future of the CAP.

The attached short paper represents the collective position of the UK Devolved Administrations on what are the key issues for us moving forward. The Devolved Administrations in Scotland, Wales and the north of Ireland are each responsible for agricultural policy and the implementation of the CAP within their respective regions. You will appreciate that while we share many of the views of the UK Government (and you will have received a UK response to your consultation), there are three critical areas where we hold a very different view and which we would like to highlight.

First of all, we do not agree that the CAP should bear a disproportionate share of any reduction to the EU budget. Like you, we believe in a strong CAP with an equitable distribution of funding to address its policy objectives. In particular, the current Pillar II funding allocation available to the UK Devolved Administrations is indefensibly low and that is something which must be addressed for the next programming period.

Secondly, unlike the UK Government, we do not seek a phased elimination of Pillar I payments and firmly believe they play a crucial role in underpinning sustainable agriculture throughout the EU.



Department of
**Agriculture and
Rural Development**
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AN ROINN
Talmhaíochta agus
Forbartha Tuaithe
MÁINTSÍRÍ: O
Fairsis an
Kintra Fordéirín



**The Scottish
Government**
Riaghaltas na h-Alba



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Finally, we support the retention of streamlined and responsive market support measures to act as a safety net in circumstances where market disturbances are beyond the capacity of individual producers to address.

The attached paper sets out in a little more detail our main objectives for the forthcoming reform. We hope that you find these comments constructive and we very much look forward to working with the Commission as it develops its detailed proposals for the future of the CAP.

Yours sincerely

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Richard Lochhead

Elin Jones

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