

Mr Janusz Wojciechowski
European Commissioner for Agriculture
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 170
1049 - Brussels

Brussels, 17 March 2023

Compensatory aid for Romanian farmers to cope with the impact of the war in Ukraine

Dear Commissioner Wojciechowski,

I am writing to you about the compensation package prepared by the European Commission to assist farmers in the hardest hit countries by the war in Ukraine, namely Romania, Bulgaria and Poland. I noted with disappointment that the amount allocated to Romania is insufficient to compensate for the losses and the difficulties the Romanian cereal producers are confronted with.

Romania is one of the main transit routes for the Ukrainian cereals, namely through the port of Constanța. Unfortunately, part of the grains remains in Romania, distorting the domestic market, storage capacity, demand and availability of market outlet for local farmers, who do not have the capacity to compete with the low-priced grains coming from Ukraine. The situation has been further exacerbated by the temporary EU trade liberalisation with Ukraine and consequent suspension of customs duties and of requirements for sanitary and veterinary certificates. Romanian farmers are presently not able to sell the cereals on the domestic market, the silos are full, farmers are on the verge of bankruptcy and in dire need of financial support.

For this reason, I urgently request that you reconsider the amount of financial aid allocated to Romania. I believe that the data on which the amount of aid to Romanian farmers was calculated does not reflect the complexity of the situation and needs on the ground, and

would need to be revisited in order to accurately take into account the direct and indirect impact of the imports and transit of grains from Ukraine.

Therefore, I suggest the Commission resumes dialogue with the Romanian authorities and explores new ways of assessing the impact on the ground, including through fact-finding missions and analysis of data at farm level in most affected areas. I believe there is a need to reassess the market situation based on additional elements, in order to ensure that both the data and the methodology used to calculate the financial compensation adequately reflect and respond to the impact for the Romanian farmers.

Romania has always shown unwavering solidarity and support to Ukraine by welcoming refugees fleeing the war and opening our ports for the Ukrainian grain exports. Romanian farmers, who are among the most affected by the Ukrainian conflict, deserve to be treated fairly by the European Union and receive the support they need to compensate for the losses they have incurred. This aid is essential for the survival of many Romanian farmers at risk of going out of business, while they do share a large part of the burden in the efforts not only to support Ukraine but also food security worldwide .

I remain ready to engage further with you on the subject.

Sincerely,

Dacian Cioloş
Member of the European Parliament