



Warsaw, 19 May 2022

Mr  
P. Frans Timmermans  
Executive Vice-President of the  
European Commission

Mr  
Janusz Wojciechowski  
Commissioner for Agriculture  
The European Commission

*Dear Mr President,*

*Dear Mr Commissioner,*

in view of:

- the need to ensure food security;
- the need to develop agriculture towards the European Green Deal and to implement the long-term “Farm to Fork” strategy in order to achieve a more sustainable food system;
- the necessity to intensify the efforts made by farmers to combat climate change, ensure environmental protection and preserve biodiversity;
- the need to ensure profitability and efficiency of production for farmers at the time of high fertiliser and energy prices;
- the long-standing efforts of the agri-food industry to standardise and certify sustainable agriculture (e.g. Farm Sustainability Assessment – FSA, GlobalG.A.P FSA, (GGFSA add-on), Quality Assurance for Food Products, etc.);

we would like to appeal to the European Commission to:

- create an Action Plan for the development of sustainable agriculture and sustainable food production in the European Union (correspondingly to organic production);
- introduce the “Sustainable Agriculture Product” label at EU level (correspondingly to organic production);
- ensure that farmers are provided with the possibility to receive subsidies from EU funds to the costs of sustainable agriculture certification;
- incorporate the objectives of the “Farm to Fork” and “EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030” in the legislative packages on the sustainable use of pesticides and the protection of biodiversity – proportionately and in accordance with the national circumstances in each Member State.

Justification:

In the pursuit of ensuring EU food security, integrally linked with the environment and climate protection efforts, sustainable agriculture will enable strengthening the resilience of the agricultural sector and optimising agricultural production in the long term, without compromising food production.

As revealed by the [“Sustainable Food in Poland”](#) report, published by Accenture and the Association of Sustainable Agriculture in Poland “ASAP” in June 2021, sustainable agriculture is very well suited to the needs of farmers (many of whom have already implemented sustainable farming practices at their farms) and consumers. According to the results of the study conducted for the purpose of the abovementioned report, 76% of Poles believe that food producers should use raw materials from sustainable agriculture and 82% of the respondents would like sustainable agriculture products to be available and properly displayed in stores.

Organic production is a significant factor in the transformation of the sustainable food system, while sustainable agriculture enables food production on a larger scale and facilitates its specialisation, which is not possible under the organic farming model due to the high manufacturing costs of such farms. It is also important to emphasise the considerable role of farms whose owners would like to produce food in accordance with the sustainable agriculture model – with respect for the climate and the environment. However, the current production model results in the decision to switch to organic production being economically unjustified for

such farmers. The economic, environmental and climate benefits of sustainable agriculture are the reason why it should be supported by an EU Action Plan. Significantly more farmers in Poland and throughout Europe can meet the requirements of sustainable agriculture than those of organic farming. Therefore, the endorsement of not only the organic farming, but also this model of agriculture, will lead to greater environmental and climate benefits.

Furthermore, when developing legislative packages concerning the sustainable use of pesticides and the protection of biodiversity, it is essential to take into account the different national circumstances in the Member States, e.g. the lower average use of plant protection products in Poland than in many Western European countries.

In our opinion, defining and supporting the model of sustainable agriculture is crucial in terms of achieving the objectives of the European Green Deal and ensuring agricultural productivity, particularly in the light of the crisis related to the war in Ukraine.

*Yours faithfully,*

[Association of Sustainable Agriculture in Poland "ASAP"](#)

The appeal has been supported by the following organisations:

1. [National Council of Agricultural Chambers](#)
2. [Federation of Employers' Unions – Leaseholders and Agricultural Owners](#)
3. [Association of Polish Fruit Growers](#)
4. [National Association of Sugar Beet Growers](#)
5. [Polish Sustainable Beef Platform](#)

CC:

Mr Henryk Kowalczyk

Deputy Prime Minister

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development