

Att. EU Commissioner for Agriculture:

Janusz Wojciechowski
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1049 Brussels
Belgium

We are a group of small farmers, all organized in Danish Agriculture & Food Council (Landbrug & Fødevarer) in the section of Danish Family Farmers Organization (Familielandbruget) and we allow ourselves to contact you directly.

We have with great excitement followed the genesis of the reform of the CAP and of course, we are mostly interested in the Danish implementation. With great satisfaction, we have concluded that the Redistribution of Income Support has been dedicated at least 10%. The Redistribution of Income Support will help compensate the smaller farmers, for some of - and especially - the administrative costs that will hit these smaller farmers hard. With this support, you can preserve and support more small farms with the positive effect it has on the land districts.

At the same time, we can also conclude that each country can deselect the redistribution of income support, if they may choose to set up something different with the same effect. Unfortunately, this is what we can conclude that Denmark will do, in close corporation with our own main organization, Danish Agriculture & Food Council, which are the driven power. It is our clear belief that the Danish actions does not live up to the demand of having the same effect. We can conclude that the Danish government, especially points towards two things that should give the same effect: leveling and eco-schemes.

Leveling:

Leveling moves money from farmers, who have payment entitlements, which is of great value, towards farmers who has payment entitlements with standard value. Leveling does not move money from the big farmers to the small farmers. In Denmark, this will typically be farmers who have cattle's and finishing pigs to give to farmers with plant production and pig production. Therefore, this argument about leveling moving money from the large farmers to the small farmers is simply not right!

Eco-schemes:

The eco-schemes are supposed to have the same effect as the Redistribution of Income Support, and this is unfortunately not the fact. The eco-schemes are voluntarily schemes, which all can apply for – big farmers as small farmers. If there should be a small number of small farmers, who will apply for these schemes, should they be troubled if the Redistribution of Income Support does not apply anyways? They are voluntarily schemes, which the big farmers have all possible ways of applying for on equal terms and often economically seen with the bigger applications. We are also challenged when looking at, how a Danish implementation of an obligated scheme can be put instead of another obligated scheme like the redistribution of income support. How is this possible?

At the same time, we would like to draw your attention to a larger part of the scheme in the 2nd Pillar in the Land District Program in Denmark, especially draw your attention to the favorable of the bigger farmers. In this case, it is all about the environmental schemes, grants for stable investments etc. Here are always cut-off criteria's, which cuts off small farmers for applying these. So, for us to see, the Danish system are moving money from the small farmers to the big farmers than the other way around. It does not change in any way the implementing of the reform of the CAP, which the Danish government wish to complete.

We have with greatness concluded that you have said, there will be kept a close eye on the country's implementation of the reform of the CAP, so it will live up to the decisions and demands made. This, we do not, in any ways, think that the Danish implementation ensures with the deselection of the obligated redistribution of income support.

We hope that you will take our inquiry with you in your consideration when the Danish implementation are going to be approved.

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