

CROATIAN CHAMBER OF ECONOMY

PRESIDENT

CLASS: 320-01/26-07/6

REF. NO.: 311-09-01-00/245-26-2

Zagreb, 20 July 2026

CROATIAN PARLIAMENT
Committee on Agriculture
Ms Marijana Petir,
Chair of the Committee

**Subject: Interparliamentary Conference "From Field to Sea – A Common Vision
for Food Security and the EU's Strategic Autonomy"**
– position of the Croatian Chamber of Economy, submitted herewith

Dear Ms Petir,

Further to your letter of 9 July 2026 (CLASS: 130-03/23-01/30, REF. NO.: 6521-16-26-4), please find below the position of the Croatian Chamber of Economy (CCE) regarding the above-mentioned conference and the Common Agricultural Policy in the new programming period 2028–2034.

The proposal for the EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the new structure of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the period 2028–2034, against the backdrop of the current highly uncertain geopolitical situation, global economic disruptions and increasingly pronounced climate change, pose enormous challenges for EU agriculture. Ever since the early 1960s, the CAP has sought to address shortcomings in the food market and food production, particularly primary production, while taking into account the need to protect producers' incomes, ensure the sustainability of production and rural areas, and provide EU citizens with a secure supply of food at affordable prices. Unfortunately, the new MFF and CAP proposals not only fail to contribute to achieving these objectives but also call into question the maintenance of the existing level of food production, the preservation of rural areas and the functioning of the EU single market for agricultural and food products.

The new CAP completely loses its identity and autonomy, as reflected in the proposals for the key regulations for implementing the CAP: the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Fund for Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion, Agriculture and Rural Areas, Fisheries and Maritime

Affairs, Prosperity and Security for the period 2028–2034, and the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the conditions for the implementation of Union support to the Common Agricultural Policy for the period 2028–2034.

The two-pillar structure of the CAP no longer exists – Pillar I, which covers direct payments and market measures, and Pillar II, which covers rural development. Both agricultural funds – the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) – are abolished, and their resources are merged into a single new fund – the European Fund for Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion, Agriculture and Rural Areas, Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, Prosperity and Security. Beyond structural changes to the financing and programming of CAP measures, the announced 20% reduction in the EU budget for agriculture is of even greater concern. All “agricultural” interventions from the existing national CAP Strategic Plans would have to be incorporated into future comprehensive “National and Regional Partnership Plans”, which would set out, in a single framework, measures to implement cohesion, social, agricultural and fisheries policies at Member State level. The new CAP could have a particularly adverse impact on Member States with more limited budgetary capacity, low productivity and a high dependence on food imports, such as Croatia, which will not be able to keep pace with economically stronger Member States in providing national support for agricultural production. This could lead to a further widening of the existing disparities between Member States.

It is necessary to:

- at least maintain the current level of EU budget funding for direct payments, rural development measures, and market measures (sectoral support);
- secure additional EU budget funding for emergencies (natural disasters, market disruptions) to safeguard the stability of production and incomes;
- ensure a clear common framework for implementing CAP measures that will not create further disparities between EU Member States.

Yours sincerely,

Luka Burilović, PhD