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PROPOSALS AND EXPLANATIONS FOR THE NEW CAP

The French National Assembly considers that the CAP is a central element for our farmers, for our food and for the construction of Europe. It is one of the only truly integrated policies at the community level, and it is important not to lose sight of this in our discussions.

The strategic plans can constitute a step towards more flexibility, towards a greater adaptation of the CAP to the reality of each territory. But it is only a simplification for the European level and can lead the European Union to shirk its responsibilities. In addition, these plans do not address the major challenge of our time: how to build a profitable, competitive and environmentally friendly European agriculture? In reality, this new CAP must aim for a triple sustainability: environmental, social and economic.

With regard to environmental sustainability, if the choice is made to keep this “new delivery model”, we want it to be framed by much stronger guarantees from the European Commission, which must ensure, by close control, that there is no distortion of competition between Member States. For this reason, these plans must not allow the green architecture of the CAP to be made optional. On the contrary, clear objectives must be announced and all Member States, if the choice in how to achieve these objectives is left to them, must comply with them.

For greater social sustainability, the CAP must take into account the issue of farmers' income: the fall in the budget is therefore a disastrous signal in our French countryside. On the contrary, a powerful and strategic CAP must help to reorientate farms towards organic farming, which is more remunerative. Direct and rural development aids should particularly support small farms and young farmers.

Lastly, for greater economic sustainability, direct aid must become a tool to help European agriculture to transform itself, and not just "administrative infusions". They must allow the upscaling of productions, the valorization of short circuits and a greater traceability of productions. In short, it must bring European agriculture into the twenty-first century.

To conclude, the "new delivery model" cannot, by itself, meet the challenges of the post-2020 CAP and we should not conceal, in future negotiations, the fundamental issues for a truly sustainable agriculture that is common to all the Member States.