



## LITHUANIAN FARMERS' UNION

## LITHUANIAN ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL COMPANIES

To: COPA and COGECA Praesidia,  
Mr Pekka Pesonen  
Secretary-General of COPA-COGECA

No. 5-2576

28<sup>th</sup>, November 2017

### Re: COPA-COGECA position on „The Future CAP post 2020“

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 a COPA-COGECA position on „The Future CAP post 2020“ appeared on COPA-COGECA web page and on Agri Info (PAC(17)2245). One of its' paragraph states „Further progress in *harmonising the comparative level of direct payments between Member States, taking into consideration differences in conditions, should be pursued to contribute to viable rural areas across the EU*“.

Hereby this letter, Lithuanian Farmers' Union (LUS) and Lithuanian Association of Agricultural Companies (LZUBA) express their concern and cannot accept a newly created term „the comparative level of direct payments“ and any other similar terms that discriminate the farmers of the states that receive lower direct payments. The objection to the statement “*while setting the level of direct payment, one should take into consideration differences in conditions*” was also clearly expressed several times already. And as far as there is no clear definition of the concrete context, such reservations only serve as a justification for the lower payments and are usually unfavourable to newer Member States. Even the leaked draft of the Commission Communication on the Future of the CAP after 2020 acknowledges that “... *all EU farmers face the same challenges*”.

Therefore, Lithuanian Farmers' Union and Lithuanian Association of Agricultural Companies repeat once again the unconditional expectations of Lithuanian farmers about the payments that should reach the average EU level in CAP 2020. We encourage COPA-COGECA to stick to the average level of EU direct payments when expressing the position of farmers on support rates between Member States.

Jonas Talmantas  
Chairman  
Lithuanian Farmers' Union

Jonas Sviderskis  
General Director  
Lithuanian Association of Agricultural Companies