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**NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Petition on inequality in payments under the EU Common Agricultural Policy

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Delegations will find in the Annex a letter from the chair of the European Parliament's PETI Committee expressing concerns about the distribution of direct payments in the Baltic States, following Petition 0160/2018 discussed at a Joint PETI-AGRI Hearing on 16 June 2021.

IM 008072 2021  
30.07.2021



Chair  
Committee on Petitions

Brussels,  
KG/ek[IPOL-COM-PETI D(2021)14427]

D 304619 27.07.2021

Mr. Jeppe Tranholm-Mikkelsen  
Secretary of the Council of the EU  
(to: Agriculture and Fisheries configuration)  
Rue de la Loi 175  
B-1048 Bruxelles

***Subject:** Petition 0160/2018 by Jonas Vilionis (Lithuanian), on behalf of Lithuanian Agriculture and Food Council, on inequality in payments under the EU Common Agricultural Policy in Lithuania*

Dear Secretary General,

During the Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting of 28-29 June 2021, EU agriculture ministers confirmed the provisional agreement of the common agricultural policy (CAP) reform reached with the European Parliament. The new CAP will cover the period 2023-2027 and a transitional arrangement agreed in 2020 will continue to apply until then. Member States will have until 31 December 2021 to submit their draft national strategic plans for approval by the Commission.

In this context, the Coordinators of the Petitions committee at their last meeting on 14 July 2021 invited me to write to you in order to express their concerns about the farmers in the Baltic States who have been receiving the lowest amount of direct payments since joining the EU (topic brought by the Petition 0160/2018). Members of the Petitions Committee therefore call the Council regarding their promise of the EU average in any future budgetary decisions and their plans, to equalize the level of direct payments.

Please find annexed for your consideration the summary of the Petition 0160/2018 discussed on 16 June 2021 at the Joint PETI-AGRI Hearing on "How to treat farmers in a fair and equal manner across the EU" (more details about this hearing under: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/joint-hearing-on-how-to-treat-farmers-in/product-details/20210607CHE09001>).



Chair

Committee on Petitions

Yours sincerely,

Dolors Montserrat

Chair

Committee on Petitions

**0160/2018**

**Petition No 0160/2018 by Jonas Vilionis (Lithuanian), on behalf of Lithuanian Agriculture and Food Council , bearing 52 359 signatures, on inequality in payments under the EU Common Agricultural Policy in Lithuania**

Lithuanian farmers have been eligible for direct support under the EU since the country's accession to the EU, but they receive much lower payments than their counterparts in Western European countries. The fair and equal, non-discriminatory payments are not attributed to the farmers despite meeting environmental, food safety and animal welfare requirements. In view of the petitioner these payments were allegedly discriminatory in 2014, at the end of the transitional period of 10 years. After the reform of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the next financial period 2014-2020 Lithuanian farmers and agricultural enterprises will continue to be in a disadvantaged position and be discriminated when allocating funds to implement the CAP. The inequality in CAP payments contributes to the emigration of Lithuanian farmers to other EU Member States which are more developed and better supported by EU funding.

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