



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT
Office of the Permanent Secretary

Ref. No: 04.02.008.018

April 27th, 2022

Mr. Wolfgang Burtscher
Director - General
Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development
European Commission

Dear Mr. Burtscher,

**Subject: Observations on the proposal by Cyprus for the
CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 – CCI: 2023CY06AFSP001**

Following your letter with reference Ref.Ares.(2022)2416455, dated 31 March 2022, regarding the assessment by the Commission of Cyprus' CAP Strategic Plan, we would like to inform you the following:

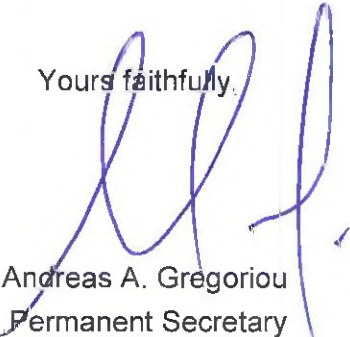
1. We acknowledge that your services have made a tremendous job in a very short period of time and we would like to thank you for the quick examination of our proposal. I assure you that our services are working intensively on these observations and we are fully dedicated in our common effort to have a revised final version as soon as possible.
2. We support your initiative to publish the observations of the CAP Strategic Plans in order to ensure transparency at European level. Cyprus has already published and disseminated the observations to the stakeholders in order to have their feedback which is very important for our services in our effort to finalize the Plan.
3. We want to assure you that based on your observations, we will try to improve the quality of the intervention logic and quantify the targets for the result indicators so that your services can assess the appropriateness and ambition of our Plan. The linkages with other EU Strategies and synergies with the Green Deal will be further

demonstrated, according to your comments. Where possible, a quantification of the Green Deal targets will be provided.

4. Furthermore, a restructuring / revision of our proposed interventions (eco-schemes and climate-environmental measures) is already taking place by grouping together similar type of actions. This will promote simplification and at the same time increase the environmental ambition of the proposed commitments.
5. It is our main concern that your observations, in some cases, are not taking into full consideration the special characteristics of Cyprus' agricultural sector. We strongly believe that our proposal has significantly higher environmental ambition than in the current programming period. We are in the process of justifying why some of your comments are difficult to be implemented in Cyprus due to the structure of our rural areas, the climatic conditions, the average farm size and the special characteristics of our landscape. Likewise, the redistributive strategy which has to be adjusted and implemented on Cyprus' unique agriculture structure while ensuring food safety on our isolated island is more than challenging.

Taking this opportunity, we would like to thank once again the Commission, for working very closely with us and for your willingness to continue our dialogue in order to submit the final version in early June.

Yours faithfully,


Andreas A. Gregoriou
Permanent Secretary

CC: AGRI D3 – Mr. Filip Busz