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Warsaw, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## **Position Paper on the draft Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy and the Social Pact for Polish Agriculture**

**In the opinion of the signatories of this Position Paper, the main priorities of the National Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy should be to protect and enhance the ecological sustainability of ecosystems and to achieve climate neutrality of agriculture by 2050.**

**Only such an approach to the development of Polish agriculture and rural areas will ensure food security and preservation of social and cultural functions of agriculture. The decisions on the directions of development of rural areas and agriculture must be an outcome of expectations and will of the entire society, which is why we are calling for the adoption of the *Social Pact for Polish Agriculture*.**

Rural areas in Poland serve a much broader function than just the production of agricultural products. They are where tens of millions of Polish citizens live and work, a cradle of national culture, the place where Polish traditions are preserved and guarded. Rural areas also offer a great variety of species, habitats and landscapes which must be protected and preserved for future generations. Viewing rural areas only in terms of productivity and competitiveness of agricultural production carries a great risk of losing their multifunctionality.

Unless we take a comprehensive view of rural areas, the economic aspect of Polish agriculture may also be lost in the near future. The longer it negatively affects the environment and the climate, the faster the economic potential of this sector will shrink.

Therefore, the main priorities of the Strategic Plan for the CAP (CAP SP) should be to protect and enhance the ecological sustainability of ecosystems and to achieve climate neutral agriculture by 2050. This is consistent with the focus of the Common Agricultural Policy reform outlined by the European Green Deal, the Farm-to-Fork Strategy and the Biodiversity Strategy. However, the outcome of this reform depends on the degree of its implementation by individual Member States.

We welcome the fact that the draft National Strategic Plan contains many interventions aimed at reducing the pressure of agricultural production on the climate and natural environment. Nevertheless, in our opinion, the draft CAP SP still does not fulfil its fundamental role, which should be the creation of a coherent vision of the future of Polish agriculture and rural areas.

The document does not clearly indicate that its objective is to ensure sustainable development of rural areas and agriculture so that food and environmental security of the country is guaranteed. The draft CAP SP does not state that the measures and interventions it proposes should:

- contribute to achieving climate neutrality of Polish agriculture by mid-century;
- ensure that greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by 55% by 2030 compared to 1990.

The proposed Strategic Plan also fails to ensure the attainment by 2030 of the other priorities of the Farm-to-Fork Strategy, which relate to:

- increasing the area of organic farming by at least 25%;
- reducing the use of chemical pesticides by 50% and mineral fertilisers by 20%;
- reducing soil nutrient losses by 50%;
- reducing the sale of antimicrobials for animal husbandry and aquaculture by 50%.

These are the basic challenges for Polish and EU agriculture. They cannot be addressed based on the paradigm of economic profit that does not take into account soil depletion, destruction of water resources, impact on the climate and loss of biodiversity, including mass extinction of pollinating insects and disregard for the welfare of farm animals. Polish farmers cannot be kept at the very bottom of the value chain, increasingly dependent on solutions imposed by intensive agricultural production and monopolistic trade policies. And finally, we cannot ignore the expectations of consumers, who are placing ever more emphasis on food that is produced in a manner that promotes animal welfare and is free from chemical contaminants that are dangerous to health and life.

We do realise that taking these actions requires the courage to initiate deep changes in Polish agriculture. Appropriate use of the funds under the Strategic Plan can facilitate these changes, while at the same time becoming an integral part of the agenda for low-carbon transformation of the Polish economy.

### ***Social Pact for Polish Agriculture***

We all are part of the process of transformation of Polish agriculture. For this reason, decisions on the directions of rural and agricultural development cannot be made by politicians and officials on their own or imposed by representatives of agricultural organisations associated with the model of intensive agricultural production. They must be an expression of the expectations and will of the entire society.

Therefore, we suggest that the works on the National Strategic Plan spark discussion on the adoption of the **Social Pact for Polish Agriculture**. While it is obvious that the scope of activities planned in the draft CAP SP is of greatest interest to farmers and rural dwellers, the issues addressed in this document concern all Polish citizens. The quality of the natural environment we live in as well as our own and our children's and grandchildren's climate and food security will depend on the actions financed from our taxes and implemented by farmers in rural areas.

The initiative to adopt the Social Pact for Polish Agriculture will make it possible to bring about sustainable changes in Polish agriculture that will not be dependent on current interests and political divisions. This is important from the point of view of building strong position of farmers, and for their sense of security and trust in public authorities. The Pact for Agriculture will also be an expression of mutual respect between farmers and consumers. Furthermore, thanks to constant quality improvement, we can expect an increase in the share of Polish food on the domestic and international market.

The crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has shown how important it is for the stability of the supply chain to develop local food and feed production and to care for their quality to ensure better public health. Adoption and implementation of the Social Pact for Polish Agriculture will unite us in a joint effort to strengthen Poland's food sovereignty through concern for ecological sustainability of production and an agenda for transformation towards a zero-carbon economy.

We declare our readiness to cooperate with all those who want to work for the conclusion of the Social Pact for Polish Agriculture.

Signatories:

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2. Dolnośląski Klub Ekologiczny
3. European Carbon Farmers
4. Europejski Fundusz Rozwoju Wsi Polskiej
5. Forum Rolnictwa Ekologicznego
6. Fundacja Strefa Zieleni
7. Fundacja Aeris Futuro
8. Fundacja Compassion in World Farming Polska
9. Fundacja Efektywnego Wykorzystania Energii
10. Fundacja Ekologiczna Arka
11. Fundacja Ekologiczna Ziemi Legnickiej Zielona Akcja
12. Fundacja EkoRozwoju FER
13. Fundacja GAP Polska
14. Fundacja Greenpeace Polska
15. Fundacja im. Stefana Batorego
16. Fundacja Kultury Chrześcijańskiej Znak
17. Fundacja Mała Wielka Zmiana
18. Fundacja na Rzecz Rozwoju Polskiego Rolnictwa
19. Fundacja Na Rzecz Zrównoważonego Rozwoju
20. Fundacja Otwarty Plan
21. Fundacja Rozwoju Myśli Ekologicznej / FoodRentgen
22. Fundacja Wspomagania Wsi
23. Fundacja WWF Polska
24. Fundacja Zielone Światło
25. Green Rev Institute
26. Instytut na rzecz Ekorozwoju
27. Instytut Spraw Obywatelskich INSPRO
28. Klimat dla Rolnictwa
29. Klub Gaja
30. Komitet Obrony Demokracji
31. Kooperatywa Spożywcza Dobrze
32. Liga Ochrony Przyrody
33. Nauka dla przyrody
34. Ogólnopolskie Stowarzyszenie Agroleśnictwa
35. Ogólnopolskie Towarzystwo Ochrony Ptaków
36. Polska Fundacja im. Roberta Schumana
37. Polska Izba Żywności Ekologicznej
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44. ProVeg Polska
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