

Mr Manfred Weber President EPP

Dear President Weber,

<u>Topic: Safeguarding the Viability of European Agriculture and the Situation of Cypriot Farmers</u>

I am writing to you to convey the concerns of Cypriot farmers, which we share, at a time when agricultural policy is once again at the centre of political debate across Europe.

Agriculture remains a strategic sector for the European Union, underpinning food security, rural employment, economic stability across many regions, and sustainable development. However, recent discussions on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy, including its financing beyond 2027 and policy decisions that lead to reductions in subsidies and increased economic pressure, have heightened uncertainty among farmers, particularly in smaller and more vulnerable Member States.

For Cyprus, these concerns are especially acute. As a small, peripheral Member State with limited natural resources and high exposure to climate-related risks, Cypriot agriculture operates under structural constraints. Rising production costs, prolonged drought, water scarcity, and extreme weather conditions are already placing sustained pressure on productivity and long-term viability.

In this context, any reduction in CAP resources or increased uniformity in policy design could have a disproportionate impact on farmers in countries such as Cyprus, with further implications for income stability, competitiveness, and the long-term viability of a sector of strategic importance.

Against this backdrop, the mobilisations of our farmers reflect concrete pressures, as they lack the capacity to absorb these impacts without substantial and targeted European support. Farmers cannot be expected to shoulder the cost of a transition, which, while necessary for environmental objectives and Europe's long-term future, must be fair, realistic, and socially sustainable.



Dear Manfred,

The legitimate demands of our farmers are echoed by farmers in many other Member States. They call for policies that take into account national specificities, provide tangible support to production, and ensure that European agricultural policy remains closely connected to the people it is meant to serve.

I am confident that the European People's Party, under your leadership, can and must play a decisive role in ensuring that agricultural policy remains central to a Europe that protects, listens to, and supports its citizens. Strengthening flexibility, avoiding horizontal cuts, and recognising regional particularities are necessary political choices, particularly in the context of the ongoing discussions on the future CAP and the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

I therefore call on you to actively support a more balanced and fair approach, one that responds to the real needs of farmers and safeguards the sustainability of European agriculture as a whole.

Sincerely,

Annita Demetriou
DISY President