



**DEMOCRATIC  
RALLY**

**President's Office**

**Friday, February 16, 2023**

**Mr. Manfred Weber**

**President of the European People's Party (EPP)  
Rue du Commerce 10  
Brussels Belgium**

Dear President,

I am addressing this letter to you regarding the recent protests by farmers across several European cities. The current situation underscores the urgent need for comprehensive support for our agricultural sector, particularly in the face of escalating global challenges.

Throughout its history, the European People's Party (EPP) has been a strong advocate and supporter for the welfare of farmers. As we witness living costs escalating and food security becoming increasingly precarious, it is imperative that we stand firmly behind this essential sector. Our farmers not only contribute to the economic fabric of Europe but also shape the identity of our rural communities. It is our duty to ensure their prosperity and well-being.

The international circumstances, notably Russia's invasion of Ukraine, have significantly increased production costs, making it more challenging for our farmers to adapt to the new European requirements. As a result, concerns among farmers across Europe, including Cyprus, are justified. We believe that transitioning to stricter environmental standards and production processes should be gradual and accompanied by compensatory policies to ensure the sector's sustainability.



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The threat of losing a substantial portion of our farms in the next few years is a stark reminder of the challenges ahead. As we chart the course for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2028-2034, it is paramount to bolster its economic foundation. Indeed, direct payments should serve to stabilize agricultural incomes and shield farmers from market volatility. Moreover, CAP funding must be equitably distributed among Member States, ensuring fairness and solidarity across the Union.

The Democratic Rally regards the primary sector as of strategic importance, intertwined with the goals of preserving rural areas and ensuring food security. We look forward to adopting specific positions on the matter at our upcoming Congress on March 6<sup>th</sup> and we commend the EPP for the targeted policies which intends to incorporate in the EPP Manifesto in order to address the concerns of our farmers, readjust and strengthen agricultural policies in a manner that effectively supports the sector's competitiveness.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your continued leadership and advocacy on behalf of European farmers.

**Sincerely,**

**Annita Demetriou  
President, Democratic Rally**