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Press Release

NEW COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE FOR AGRICULTURE DACIAN CIOLOS: YES HE CAN

Copa-Cogeca welcomed today the new EU Commissioner-designate Dacian Ciolos views on the future of the CAP, especially the need for a strong CAP which provides a fair income for farmers, and recognition that the cost of no support for the CAP would be far too high.

The move came at European Parliaments hearing held in Brussels today. Copa-Cogeca Secretary-General Pekka Pesonen insisted "I am very pleased that the new Commissioner-designate supports the need for a robust Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in the future, with the maintenance of direct aid payments to farmers, and a sufficiently large budget. With the recent dismantlement of most of our market management tools under the CAP, I welcome his initiative to find new tools to manage the market and challenge him to come forward with concrete proposals. Copa-Cogeca would like to participate in this debate and is already working on new ideas to ensure that farmers have a fair and stable income in the future. I also welcome his firm stance in the current Doha round of world trade liberalising talks".

In addition, Cogeca-Cogeca is anxious to ensure that European competition rules are adapted to give farmers more weight in the food chain. Copa-Cogeca believes measures must rapidly be developed to strengthen the bargaining power of cooperatives and producer groupings in the food chain. Copa-Cogeca consequently welcomes Mr Ciolos indication that competition rules could be examined in a bid to improve the operation of the food supply chain and urges the new Commissioners-designate for Agriculture and Competition Policy to urgently look at this.

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