

**Letter to  
Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, and  
Frans Timmermans, Vice-President of the Commission**

Sent by email on 13.3.2020

**Request for a meeting to discuss how the next CAP can be greener and more sustainable**

Leipzig, 13.3.2020

Dear President von der Leyen, dear Vice-President Timmermans,

We are writing to you to express our grave concern as to how the Common Agricultural Policy can address sustainability challenges. As international scientists from a broad range of disciplines – including ecology, agricultural sciences, economics, social and political sciences – we have evaluated the proposals for the CAP Post-2020, and see a risk that the CAP is heading toward a weaker, rather than stronger, performance for both the environment and for society.

Based on scientific evidence and knowledge, we are calling for **10 urgent actions** to reform the CAP. These are accompanied by a list of concrete recommendations to demonstrate how they could be implemented in terms of targets and measures. Our position paper, attached here, is supported by over 3600 scientists including leading CAP experts from across all EU Member States.

Following the announcement of the EU Green Deal and the Farm to Fork (F2F) Strategy, we see an important opportunity ahead. This should not be missed. In light of the heated debates around the CAP reform and the implications of the EU Green Deal, we see room for evidence-based support. We wish to offer our scientific support in informing and streamlining the CAP with the EU Green Deal, so that the agricultural policy can serve as a key element for the success of the flagship strategies of the new Commission.

We would be very pleased to meet you and to exchange in person, or, as likely necessary due to current health measures, online.

We are looking forward to your response.

Thank you for your attention,

Guy Pe'er on behalf of the authors

Guy Pe'er, Aletta Bonn, Helge Bruelheide, Petra Dieker, Nico Eisenhauer, Peter H. Feindt, Gregor Hagedorn, Bernd Hansjürgens, Irina Herzon, Angela Lomba, Elisabeth Marquard, Francisco Moreira, Heike Nitsch, Rainer Oppermann, Andrea Perino, Norbert Röder, Christian Schleyer, Stefan Schindler, Christine Wolf, Yves Zinngrebe, and Sebastian Lakner.

For the full paper see [DOI: 10.1002/pan3.10080](https://doi.org/10.1002/pan3.10080); for the full list of signatories see [DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.3685632](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3685632).