



**STELLA KYRIAKIDES**  
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Rue de la Loi, 200  
B-1049 Brussels – [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [@ec.europa.eu](mailto:[REDACTED]@ec.europa.eu)

Brussels, 13 June 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your letter of 26 April 2022 on the sustainable use of plant protection products.

I am encouraged that Copa and Cogeca share the objectives set out in the Farm to Fork Strategy. As we have previously discussed, EU farmers have an overriding interest in ensuring sustainable production, taking into account the environmental impacts and consumer demands.

I took note of your view that the EU Green Deal's objectives were set in the pre-pandemic era and, thus, did not factor in or provide for the cumulative crises that have occurred since. The Green Deal presented the Commission's commitment to tackling climate and environmental-related challenges, that we consider to be this generation's defining task. This task is now more relevant than ever. The challenges we are experiencing show that if we are to guarantee the long-term food security of the EU – and the world – it is essential that we act now to bring the necessary changes to our economies and societies.

On the topic of food security for EU citizens, I would refer back to the Commission Communication on “Safeguarding food security and reinforcing the resilience of food systems” adopted on 23 March, which presented actions along three key areas. It outlined our immediate actions to safeguard food security in Ukraine and around the world. This Communication also addressed the challenge of food stability in the EU's food system, with a range of measures to support our farmers and maintain affordability for our citizens. Finally, it confirmed our agenda to make our food system sustainable and resilient.

In a similar vein, it would also be important to recall the 2020 opinion of the EU Group of Chief Scientific Advisers, “Towards a sustainable food system”, which stated that “the EU

[REDACTED]  
Copa - Cogeca  
Rue de Trèves 61  
1040 Brussels  
Belgium

*food system has achieved high levels of food security, food safety and a wide consumer choice, but is currently not sustainable with respect to the environmental, economic and social aspects. Continuing with 'business as usual' will significantly endanger natural resources, our health, the climate, and the economy".*

I would like to thank Copa and Cogeca and their members for their constructive engagement to the Commission's policy formulation process and to the external studies supporting the evaluation of the SUD and impact assessment of its planned revision.

As we are now in the final stages of preparation for our legislative proposal to revise SUD, which we intend to present before the summer break, I hope that I can count on your members support to achieve our shared ambition, and I look forward to our meeting on 15 June.

Yours sincerely,

