

## **No second class EU citizens!**

The European Union is a body with important values for all of us. In order to fulfil these principles also in real life significant steps still need to be taken. The growing gap between EU citizens<sup>1</sup> is one major issue that needs to be addressed, for there shall be no second class citizens! It is not acceptable that citizens constructively contributing to the prosperity of the EU are not able to generate an adequate income for themselves and their families.

**Therefore, in the field of agriculture the EMB calls on European decision-makers to:**

- **Generally focus on guaranteeing fair incomes so that people of the agricultural community can have an adequate standard of living<sup>2</sup>.**
  - Therefore, farmers should receive cost-covering prices<sup>3</sup> for their products so as not to be dependent on direct payments in the future.
  - In order to achieve this goal, a **crisis management tool** is required to be able to avoid crises in the future. When crises are looming, the **Market Responsibility Programme**<sup>4</sup> should be activated.
- **As long as a fair income cannot be generated on the market, to create equal conditions between Member States for direct payments in the agricultural sector of the European Union.**
- **To reduce the income gap between farmers and citizens in the EU by efficiently implementing the necessary measures. In general, there must be no second class farmers nor second class citizens in the EU!**

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<sup>1</sup> In the EU, the gap between farmers' income and salaries in the whole economy amounts to 40 % on average. Source : [Communication from the Commission "The Future of Food and Farming"](#), p. 16.

<sup>2</sup> Article 39 of the TFEU sets as an objective of the Common Agricultural Policy to ensure a fair standard of living for the agricultural community.

<sup>3</sup> I.e. oriented to the cost of production including a fair income.

<sup>4</sup> The European Milk Board's Market Responsibility Programme (MRP) foresees to react to the market situation by adapting production volumes.