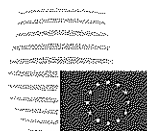




*Il Ministro delle politiche agricole  
alimentari e forestali*



Italian Presidency  
of the Council  
of the European Union



Ministro  
Prof. Uscita del 11/11/2014  
Numero: **0003445**  
Classifica:



*Dear President,*

during the debate held yesterday at the Agrifish Council, a large number of Ministers expressed their strong concern regarding the Commission's proposal to reduce the 2015 EAGF budget by 448 Million euro.

This decision would strongly penalize the agricultural sector and, in particular, generate heavy consequences for the European farmers, who are already facing the problems stemming from the Russian ban on several EU agricultural and agri-food products.

In this context, it is worth stressing that the crisis caused by the Russian ban was not caused by the agricultural market but is due to a political crisis, of which the European farmers are suffering the consequences.

The economic difficulties this situation is causing may jeopardize the viability of a significant number of already vulnerable farms.

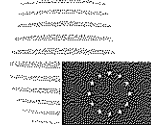
Since August 2014, the Russian embargo has been depriving the European agricultural sectors of a significant outlet of exports, representing around €5 billion per year. The additional availability of these quantities inside the European market is leading to a collapse in prices affecting all European producers.

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Minister Pier Carlo Padoan  
President of the ECOFIN Council  
Via XX Settembre, 97  
00187 ROMA



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To face the crisis the European Commission adopted, since last August, emergency measures in the sectors most affected by the ban : fruit and vegetables and dairy sectors. The measures already implemented today and those to be implemented in the near future should be financed by the appropriate resources in the 2015 budget, as the Commission declared.

There was accordingly a widely shared call not to reduce the credits for 2015 in Heading II of the budget, so that these resources can be available to finance the crisis measures related to the Russian ban adopted by Commission, and the 2015 reserve for crisis must not be used to fund these measures. Indeed, the reserve should be preserved to maintain our response capacity, should a deeper or a new crisis arise during the next year.

Within the Council, a common statement, annexed to this letter, has been signed by 22 Member States.

Overall, the wish was largely expressed that every effort be made within the “conciliation procedure” *in itinere*, in order to ensure that the EU agricultural sector is not penalized and remains able to cope with the difficult situation it is currently facing, continuing to bring an active contribution to the promotion of growth in Europe.

*Kineol zepozols -*

  
Maurizio Martina