

CALL BY THE MEMBERS OF THE 2019-2024 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
OF THE BALTIC STATES

To the European Parliament, Council and the Commission

Regarding final external convergence of direct payments in the period of 2021-2027  
and minimum level of payments – EUR 196 per hectare

Dear Members of the European Parliament,  
Dear Members of the European Council,  
Dear Members of the European Commission,

The European Council of 7 and 8 of February, 2013 agreed to ensure that “all Member States should attain at least the level of EUR 196 per hectare in current prices by 2020”. The European Parliament had also repeatedly stated its concern regarding the never-ending inequality among the level of direct payments paid to farmers in different Member States. Significant difference in the direct support discourages farmers’ initiatives beneficial for climate and environment, distorts competition within EU, especially in the Baltic States where direct payments for farmers are at the lowest level in EU.

The European Commission failed to tackle this discriminative allocation of funds in its Multiannual Financial Framework proposal for the next programming period. Significant differences between the levels of direct support are planned to the end of the period 2021-2027. Moreover, the Commission keeps ignoring the obligation to ensure minimum level of EUR 196 per hectare by 2020, which is the point of reference in the convergence formula. Calculations of eligible areas are based on outdated and questionable statistical data, which does not reflect the actual situation and deepens the gap among the new and the old Member States even further.

Therefore we, the members of the European Parliament from the Baltic States, repeatedly call the European Parliament, Council and the Commission:

- To ensure minimum EUR 196 per hectare level of direct payments in 2020,
- To amend the provisions of CAP post 2020 thus ensuring full convergence of direct payments within the period 2021-2027,
- To update calculations of eligible areas according to the most recent statistics available.

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