



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Deputy Director-General, in charge of Directorates D, E and F

Dear Dr Sánchez Recarte,

Thank you for your letter of 10 February 2021, in which you requested clarifications concerning the possibility of support to the European wine sector from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and additional resources for rural development from the European Union Recovery Instrument (EURI) in the programming years 2021 and 2022.

As you may be aware, the Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) have been extended in 2021 and 2022, with a budget of EUR 26.9 billion from the EAFRD, and have been reinforced with additional EUR 8.1 billion from the EURI. Taken together, available funding for rural development policy from both instruments is significantly higher than in previous years and can be mobilised to give a boost to the recovery of rural areas and the agro-food sector.

The financial resources available in the RDPs may be used under various measures to address the challenges faced by the European wine sector. For instance, both instruments may support investments in infrastructure, processing, marketing and packaging of goods. Most importantly, they may be used for a green and digital recovery of the agro-food sector by supporting investments in sustainable energy, bio-economy or organic farming.

Furthermore, loans with low interest rates, as well as support for stand-alone working capital and favourable payment schedules under financial instruments are available to agro-food businesses to increase cash flow and mitigate the impact of the crisis.

With regard to your specific questions, please note:

- Wine companies can apply for EAFRD and EURI support, provided that the Member State has included the relevant measures in their RDPs;
- The application process for support by potential beneficiaries (e.g. eligibility conditions, deadlines for applications etc.) is managed by the competent authorities in the Member States;

Dr Ignacio Sánchez Recarte
CEEV Secretary General

- In 2021 and 2022, the share of the EAFRD reserved for operations beneficial for climate and environment has to be at least the same as in RDPs before their extension and in any case not less than 30%. There is no earmarking of EAFRD support for digitalisation.
- In 2021 and 2022, the share of the EURI resources reserved for operations beneficial for climate and environment has to be at least the same as in RDPs in force when the request to amend the RDP in question is made. In addition, support for operations beneficial for environment and climate, animal welfare and LEADER taken together has to represent at least 37% of the EURI resources.
- Digitalisation is among the priorities for which at least 55% of the EURI resources must be reserved.

Yours faithfully,

Mihail DUMITRU