



## ALIANȚA PENTRU AGRICULTURĂ ȘI COOPERARE



## Joint declaration on imports of agricultural commodities from Ukraine

Representatives of the V4 chambers of agriculture (KRIR, AK CR - Czech Chamber of Agriculture, HCA - Hungarian Chamber of Agriculture, and SPPK), in Agreement with Bulgarian and Romanian farmers' associations, have agreed on a common position regarding the critical situation on their cereal markets, which in our opinion needs to be dealt with utmost urgency.

Countries neighbouring Ukraine have witnessed and struggled with a sharp decline in prices of agricultural commodities, which is unfortunately combined with high costs of production and storage and is (particularly in our territory) in a significant part caused by an increased amount of cereal and rapeseed imported from Ukraine. This causes further price reductions and leads to a practically "frozen" domestic market with stocks of grains piling up, especially in V4 countries and Romania and Bulgaria.

While we fully support Ukraine, and its struggle for freedom and independence (our governments provide massive military and humanitarian aid), Ukrainian agricultural production ending up on our markets is threatening the livelihood, particularly of small farmers, which the EU aims to support through the instruments of the Common Agricultural Policy. At the same time, cereals and oilseeds intended for third markets such as Africa or Southeast Asia at the moment stuck in Europe and cannot feed the starving population where it's needed the most.

We therefore believe that the European Commission should with no hesitation propose such instruments which will curb the increasing difficulties of EU producers, caused to a large extent by a very serious increase in imports of Ukrainian agricultural products to the EU market.

We are requesting the creation of an EU fund to support farmers from the V4 countries, Romania and Bulgaria who have suffered as a result of the increased inflow of products from Ukraine, financed from sources other than the CAP budget.

At the same time, the so-called Solidarity lanes should be revisited to make sure Ukrainian production is able to reach its final destination, i.e. countries with very low food security. Instruments such as intervention buying-in, subsidized and secured transport could in our view be considered.


The suspension of import tariffs and barriers in trade with Ukraine was a joint EU commitment, but its effects are disproportionately borne by Member States close to Ukraine. EU-funded measures are needed to address the consequences of the EU decision.

EU producers are forced to compete with the inflow of low-standard Ukrainian grain, poultry meat, egg, and honey at dumping prices, at ever higher input prices, with ever-tightening sustainability requirements, and amid huge inflation.

We agree that helping Ukraine must remain a priority, but not at the expense of European farmers. If Ukrainian produce is to be treated equally with European agri-food production when it comes to market access, the same must be true for the standards of production. The common agricultural policy requires EU farmers to reduce pesticides, increase the non-productive areas, and implement other standards/interventions that significantly reduce productivity. Let us make these standards mandatory for products imported from Ukraine.

Grain entering from Ukraine should be subject to strict controls and should not be allowed to be imported if it has been grown using pesticides banned in the EU. These measures should also apply to other third-world countries.

The representatives of the agricultural chambers of the V4 countries, Romania and Bulgaria, strongly urge the European Commission to urgently take the necessary steps to compensate farmers in the affected countries.

  
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Jan Doležal  
President of AKČR

  
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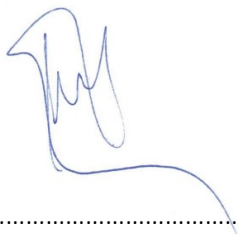
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