



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

George Eustice MP
Minister of State, Department for Environment,
Food and Rural Affairs

Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T 03459 335577
defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

The Earl of Kinnoull
Chairman
Select Committee on the European Union
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

4th November 2019

Dear Charles

EM 9645/18: PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ESTABLISHING RULES ON SUPPORT FOR STRATEGIC PLANS TO BE DRAWN UP BY MEMBER STATES UNDER THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP STRATEGIC PLANS) AND FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL GUARANTEE FUND (EAGF) AND BY THE EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL FUND FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (EAFRD) AND REPEALING REGULATION (EU) NO 1305/2013 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AND REGULATION (EU) NO 1307/2013 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL (AND ADD 1)

9646/18: COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT ACCOMPANYING THE DOCUMENT PROPOSALS FOR A - REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ESTABLISHING RULES ON SUPPORT FOR STRATEGIC PLANS TO BE DRAWN UP BY MEMBER STATES UNDER THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP STRATEGIC PLANS) AND FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL GUARANTEE FUND (EAGF) AND BY THE EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL FUND FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (EAFRD) AND REPEALING REGULATION (EU) NO 1305/2013 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AND REGULATION (EU) NO 1307/2013 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL - REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON THE FINANCING, MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY AND REPEALING REGULATION (EU) NO 1306/2013 - REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATIONS (EU) NO 1308/2013 ESTABLISHING A COMMON ORGANISATION OF THE MARKETS IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, (EU) NO 1151/2012 ON QUALITY SCHEMES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND FOODSTUFFS, (EU) NO 251/2014 ON THE DEFINITION, DESCRIPTION, PRESENTATION, LABELLING AND THE PROTECTION OF

GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS OF AROMATISED WINE PRODUCTS, (EU) NO 228/2013 LAYING DOWN SPECIFIC MEASURES FOR AGRICULTURE IN THE OUTERMOST REGIONS OF THE UNION AND (EU) NO 229/2013 LAYING DOWN SPECIFIC MEASURES FOR AGRICULTURE IN FAVOUR OF THE SMALLER AEGEAN ISLANDS (AND ADD 1-2)

9634/18: PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON THE FINANCING, MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY AND REPEALING REGULATION (EU) NO 1306/2013 (AND ADD 1)

9556/1/18 REV 1: PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL AMENDING REGULATIONS (EU) NO 1308/2013 ESTABLISHING A COMMON ORGANISATION OF THE MARKETS IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, (EU) NO 1151/2012 ON QUALITY SCHEMES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND FOODSTUFFS, (EU) NO 251/2014 ON THE DEFINITION, DESCRIPTION, PRESENTATION, LABELLING AND THE PROTECTION OF GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS OF AROMATISED WINE PRODUCTS, (EU) NO 228/2013 LAYING DOWN SPECIFIC MEASURES FOR AGRICULTURE IN THE OUTERMOST REGIONS OF THE UNION AND (EU) NO 229/2013 LAYING DOWN SPECIFIC MEASURES FOR AGRICULTURE IN FAVOUR OF THE SMALLER AEGEAN ISLAND

Thank you for your letter of 24 October 2019.

In response to your first set of questions, related to the UK Government's attendance at CAP Reform meetings in Brussels and monitoring of the CAP Reform negotiations: as I explained in my previous letter, the Government is attending meetings where the UK has a significant national interest in the outcome of discussions – and we take those decisions on a case by case basis. I consider the information I currently receive from officials on the progress related to the CAP reform package to be proportionate to our position as a departing Member State which will not be implementing the next CAP. I will, of course, continue to provide you with any significant updates on the proposal. The most recent development is that on 31 October the Commission published a proposal to extend the current CAP by one year – i.e. up to the end of 2021. I will be writing separately to the Committee with an update on the progress of that proposal in due course.

In response to your second set of questions, relating to CAP continuity in the context of Brexit: to maintain continuity with previous years, we intend to lay a statutory instrument under the Environment Act 1995 in early 2020 to allow the application window for the 2021 Countryside Stewardship (CS) scheme to open in early 2020. The CS scheme applies in England and the Devolved Administrations are making their own arrangements to either extend agreements or open a new scheme later in the year.

As regards the funding for farm support, the Government has committed to provide the same cash totals in funds for farm support until the end of this Parliament. It will be for the new Government to determine future funding commitments.

I am copying this letter to Sir William Cash MP, Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee. I am also copying this letter to the Clerks of the Commons and Lords Committees, Jessica Mulley and Chris Johnson respectively; Les Saunders, Department for Exiting the European Union; and Phillippa Edmunds, Defra Scrutiny Co-ordinator.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "George Eustice". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "George" and the surname "Eustice" clearly distinguishable.

GEORGE EUSTICE MP

