

*For the attention of the President of the European Commission  
Ursula von der Leyen  
[ec-president-vdl@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ec-president-vdl@ec.europa.eu)*

cc

*Governo Italiano - Ministro Politiche Agricole, Alimentari e Forestali  
Teresa Bellanova  
[ministro@pec.politicheagricole.gov.it](mailto:ministro@pec.politicheagricole.gov.it)*

*Regione Siciliana - Assessore regionale dell' agricoltura, dello sviluppo rurale  
e della pesca mediterranea  
Edy Bandiera  
[assessorato.risorse.agricole.alimentari@certmail.regione.sicilia.it](mailto:assessorato.risorse.agricole.alimentari@certmail.regione.sicilia.it)*

*Sicily, 09.11.2020*

Dear Mrs. President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen,

We, the signed, are more than 100 Sicilian farmers in the "Terre della Biosfera", an area of the valleys around Mt Etna, an area that is currently promoted to be recognised as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and famous for its environmental richness and beauty, for its high value in terms of biodiversity and for a largely traditional agriculture with excellent products.

We all protect and manage the biodiversity at our farms, we leave large parts of our land uncultivated to promote the natural character at our farmland and we farm soundly and sustainably, often traditionally, without any organic certificate. On the one hand, our hard work saves the income for our families, not without difficulty, and on the other hand it helps to generate public environmental benefits. Although the European Union has already allocated financial support (not requested by all of us!), we find it very difficult to keep our farms economically viable.

We understand that the current draft for the new CAP will not bring any of the fundamental changes that we think are needed. For this reason, we kindly ask you to push with all your influence with the EU Commission to **reconsider the laws for the new CAP** and to take note of these particular points:

1. Adequate support for maintaining and managing of nature, in particular at disadvantaged areas with high environmental values such as Natura 2000;
2. Support for sound environmental practices, i.e. for those who do not destroy water, soil and air - whether they are work biological or in traditional ways;
3. An aid in support of ecological practices rather than using chemicals, if they are more expensive and to keep conserving native crops, species and biodiversity;

4. Help in accessing markets for local, organic/traditional products and family businesses;
5. Help to counter climate change, the effects of which we are increasingly impacted year after year. Combating it should be one of the main tasks of the EU;
6. An additional aid for the added value chain of primary products (for example transforming milk into cheese, as our ancestors could do until recently without any problems);
7. It is also important to have simplified access to funds, as we all experienced problems linked with a slow and complicated bureaucracy.
8. Greater support for small farms which, by their nature, represent the true pillar of local agriculture but which are currently penalised and threatened by increasing big intensive farming with huge impacts on the natural resources of our region.

These questions do not only concern us, but we believe that they are representative for most European farmers who are located in economically disadvantaged areas but rich in biodiversity and natural environments. It is important for all of us, who respect and farm with nature, that industrial or intensively cultivated products from other areas do not compete with our local markets and destroy them.

At present we do not see a bright future for our farms and we urge you to do all within your powers to rescue our farms, our people and our biodiversity!

We hope you can address these points and enable their incorporation into any future CAP support schemes. We very much looking forward to hear from you!

King regards,

Rizzo Giuseppe for Azienda Agricola Rizzo Giuseppa, Maniace  
Portale Alfio for Azienda Agr. Portale Vincenzo, Maletto  
Messina Biagio for Azienda Agr. Longhitano Maria, Bronte  
Currenti Nunziato for Azienda Agr. Currenti Nunziato, Bronte  
Parrinello Rosita for Azienda Agr. Saponi del Vulcano, Maletto  
Bonina Carmelo for Azienda Agr. Bonina Carmelo, Maletto  
Burrello Ignazio for Azienda Agr. Burrello Ignazio, Bronte  
Putrino Antonio for Azienda Agr. Putrino Antonio, Maletto  
Galvagno Antonino for Azienda Agr. Galvagno Antonino, Bronte  
Carmelo Mazzurco for Az. Agr. Mazzurco Carmelo, Bronte  
Luca Nunziato for Azienda Agr. Luca Nunziato, Randazzo  
Capizzi Vincenzo for Azienda Agr. Capizzi Vincenzo, Maletto  
Piazza Salvatore for Azienda Agr. Bella Organica, Moio Alcantara  
Russo Salvatore for Azienda Agr. Russo Salvatore, Maletto  
Marco Meli for Azienda Agr. Biologica Marco Meli, Bronte  
Piero Valenti for Azienda Agr. Bionatura, Bronte-Randazzo  
Fabio Romano for Az. Agricola Fabio Biagio Romano, Bronte  
Agostino Bruno for Il contadino Soc.coop., Adrano  
Roberto Galvagno for Az.Agr. Roberto Galvagno, Bronte  
Massimiliano Galvagno for Società Agricola GPS s.r.l., Bronte  
Sebastiano Carcione for Az. Agricola Sebastiano Carcione, Bronte  
Laura Prestianni for Azienda Agricola Prestianni Biagio, Bronte

Antonio Di Mauro for Az. Agr. Antonio di Mauro, Piedimonte Etneo  
Nicola Maio for Az. Agr. La valle del Pistacchio e for Az. Agr. Terre verdi di Bronte, Bronte  
Sorge Maria for Az. Agr. Regia Corte, Piedimonte Etneo  
Liliana Guma for Az. Agr. Liliana Guma Api, Riposto  
Carmelo Testa for Az. Agr. Carmelo Testa, Piedimonte Etneo  
Francesco Barberio for Az. Agr. Francesco Barberio, Giardini Naxos  
Federica Lucia Russo for Az. Centro Ippico Abred, Calatabiano  
Ilenia Chiarenza for Az. Agr. Ilenia Chiarenza, Mascali  
Salvatore Grigoli for Az. Agr. Salvatore Grigoli, Bronte  
Alberto Castorina for Az. Agr. Alberto Castorina, Giarre  
Silvia Patanè for Az. Agr. Silvia Patanè-Rosa Caramagno, Sant'Alfio-Mascali  
Antonino Longo for Az. Antonino Longo, Cesarò  
Vincenzo Caruso for Az. Agr. Caruso, Maletto  
Capace Angelo for Az. Agr. Angelo Capace, Santa Maria di Licodia  
Cairone Valentino for Az. Agr. La terra di papà, Maletto  
Luca Tirendi e Simone Caserta for Biotica Società Agricola S.S., Maletto  
Simone Caraci for Az. Agr. Caraci Simone, Bronte  
Roberto Portale for Az. Agr. Pistacchi Portale, Bronte  
Fabio Massimo for Az. Agr. Fabio Massimo, Cesarò  
Giuseppe Campione for Az. Sua Maestà Etna Rosso, Castiglione di Sicilia  
Gusmano Vito for Az. Agr. Gusmano Vito, Cesarò  
Salvatore Garozzo for azienda agricola Garozzo Salvatore, Calatabiano  
Ania Bicego for azienda agricola Il noceto di Bicego Ania, Castiglione di Sicilia  
Massimo Russo for Azienda Agricola Russo Massimo, Adrano  
Orazio Catalano for azienda agricola catalano Orazio, Piedimonte Etneo  
Antonino Lizzio for azienda agricola La Vite, Linguaglossa  
Alfio Turrisi for azienda agricola La Gelsomina, Mascali  
Christian Listro for azienda agricola Tenuta delle terre nere, Randazzo  
Grazia Prestianni for azienda agricola Prestianni, Bronte  
Agata Zappalà for azienda agricola Zappalà Agata, Mascali  
Gabriel Palermo for Az. Agr. Palermo Gabriel, Bronte  
Salvatore Gusmano for Az. Agr. Salvatore Gusmano, Cesarò  
Giorgio Sanfilippo for Az. Agricola Sanfilippo, Bronte-Randazzo  
Ignazio Scimone for Olio Merlini SRL Agricola, Randazzo  
Calogero Savoca for Az. Agr. Savoca Calogero, Cesarò  
Nunzio Avellina for Az. Agr. Spitaleri Rita, Maletto  
Antonino Castiglione e Carmelo Gorgone for Az. Agr. La valle del Etna, Bronte  
Nunzio Zitelli for Az. Agr. Zitelli Nunzio, Cesarò  
Salvatore Maurici for Az. Agr. Agorà SAS, Santa Maria di Licodia  
Filippo Orto for Az. Agr. Orto Filippo, Paternò  
Mario La Rosa for Az. Turismo Rurale Fontana del Cherubino, Santa Maria di Licodia  
Francesco Mannino for Az. Agr. Mannino di Plachi, Paternò  
Benedetto Caramazza for La Casa delle Acque SRL, Paternò  
Serena Rapisarda for Az. Agr. Rapisarda, Paternò-S.M. di Licodia  
Carmelo Botta for Az. Agr. F.lli Botta, Paternò  
Salvatore Giaccone for Az. Agr. Giaccone, Paternò  
Giorgio Salomone for Az. Agr. Barcavecchia, Adrano  
Antonino Sava for Az. Agr. Savagri di Sava Antonino, Paternò  
Giuseppe Bonomo for Az. Agr. Bonomo, Centuripe

Francesco Grigoli for Az. Agr. A Frastuca, Bronte  
Montagno Cappuccinello Giuseppe for Az. Agr. Montagno Cappuccinello, Bronte  
Gianluca Russo for Az. Agr. Gianluca Russo, Bronte  
Massimo Marino Gammazza for Az. Agr. Marino Gammazza, Maniace  
Samantha Pieraccini for Az. Agr. Pieraccini, Bronte  
Antonino Catania for Az. Agr. Antonino Catania, Bronte  
Franco Scurria for la Soc. Coop. Agricola Grandi Idee, Bronte  
Salvatore Faraci for Az. Agr. Salvatore Faraci, Randazzo  
Gino Giarrizzo for Az. Agr. Gino Giarrizzo, Bronte  
Annamaria Liuzzo Scorpo for Az. Agr. Liuzzo Scorpo, Bronte  
Claudio Malaponte for Az. Agr. Malaponte, Bronte  
Michele Rizzo for Az. Agr. Michele Rizzo, Bronte  
Nunzio Puglisi for az. Agr. Puglisi, Bronte-Randazzo-Maletto  
Costantino Musarra for Az. Agr. Musarra, Maniace  
Salvatore Costanzo for Az. Agr. Villa Lete, Bronte  
Biagio Spitaleri for Az. Agr. Spitaleri Biagio, Bronte  
Santino Montagno for Az. Agr. Santino Montagno, Randazzo  
Domenico Smeraldi for Az. Agr. Smeraldi Luigi Antonino, Bronte  
Carla Giuseppa Conti Cutugno for Az. Agr. Conti Cutugno, Roccella Valdemone  
Santo Di Campo for la Soc. Coop. Bucceri, Francavilla Di Sicilia  
Antonino Natoli for Az. Agr. Il Noceto, Santa Domenica Vittoria  
Salvatore Caggegi for Az. Agr. La Baita, Santa Domenica Vittoria  
Lo Castro Antonino for Az. Agr. Lo Castro, Roccella Valdemone  
Salvatore Currenti Carlino for Az. Agr. Mastrolembo, Francavilla di Sicilia  
Giuseppe Radici e Ferro Antonino for Az. Agr. Radici, Roccella Valdemone  
Luciano Schepis for Az. Agr. Schepis, Randazzo  
Giuseppe Putrino for Az. Agr. Putrino Giuseppe, Francavilla di Sicilia  
Antonino Scaffidi for Az. Agr. Scaffidi, Roccella Valdemone  
Gianfranco Orsina for Famiglia Orsina S.A.S., Roccella Valdemone  
Giorgio Fisauli for Azienda agricola Fisauli Giorgio, Roccella Valdemone  
Angelo Meli for Az. Agricola Meli Angelo, Bronte  
Salvatore Lupica for azienda Agricola Lupica Salvatore, Bronte-Randazzo  
Biagio Saitta for Azienda Agricola Biagio Saitta, Bronte  
Vito Caruso for Az. Agricola Vito Caruso, Bronte  
Giuseppe Montagno for Az. Agricola Montagno Giuseppe, Bronte

Contact: Gruppo Promotore Terre della Biosfera [terredellabiosfera@pec.it](mailto:terredellabiosfera@pec.it)  
c/o Giacche Verdi Bronte, Viale Cavalieri di Vittorio Veneto 1, 95034 Bronte (CT), Italy  
Tel. +39 095 7722108

