

Press release – MEPs debate support for EU farmers to deal with COVID-19



The debate will focus on [measures proposed by the European Commission so far](#), including loans or guarantees at favourable conditions to cover operational costs of up to €200,000 and reallocating unused agriculture funds to fight the effects of the COVID-19 crisis in rural areas.

The Commission also proposed to cut the number of physical on-farm checks and to increase, from mid-October, advances of direct payments and rural development payments.

MEPs are also set to quiz Commissioner Wojciechowski on how he intends to secure cross-border access for farmers to all necessary production inputs, including feed and plant protection products, and how he plans to ensure that some sort of cross-border movement for seasonal workers is allowed during the ongoing harvest season.

WHEN: Wednesday, 15 April, from 15.00

WHERE: Altiero Spinelli building in Brussels, room 5G3

Members of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee will be able to participate remotely – they can ask for the floor and intervene. Committee Chair [Norbert Lins \(EPP, DE\)](#) and Commissioner Wojciechowski will participate remotely.

The meeting will be web-streamed [here](#).

Background

In two separate letters addressed on 23 March to Agriculture Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski and to Croatia's Agriculture Minister Marija Vučković,

Agriculture Committee Chair Norbert Lins [urgently called for further action](#) to help EU farmers and to avoid a disruption in food supply.

A first discussion of the EU's response to the COVID-19 outbreak with Commissioner Wojciechowski already took place on 30 March during the meeting of coordinators of political groups in the Agriculture Committee.

Information to the media

Journalists are advised not to attend in person unless absolutely necessary. If you do, you are requested to respect the standard recommended guidelines on social distancing and hygiene. Please refrain from coming to EP premises if you present any symptoms of a respiratory infection, if you have knowingly been in contact with an infected person in the last 14 days or if you have been to regions with very high transmission rates.