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Irish Republican Brotherhood

Address by Secretary for Agriculture

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the 2023-2027 period is to be agreed and sent to Europe by or before January 2023. The CAP's purpose is to make agriculture more sustainable and increase biodiversity. As we all can see with farmers selling their land, very few young people wanting to take up farming and the decline of units of biodiversity dropping at an alarming rate it is clear that the CAP policies have failed to date. As we all know it is the farmers that are the custodians of the environment and therefore farmers should be properly represented on all 3 pillars of sustainability.

The Environmental Pillar are now doing their public consultations with the farmers with environmental remits. They also represent 32 other environmental groups (The Irish Environmental Network). Proper procedure is that the Environmental Pillar collects all the proposals and then holds a public meeting where the proposals are agreed and presented to the Environmental Mediators who subsequently bring them to the Joint Committee on Agriculture which will have all 3 pillars represented.

This committee can agree to all proposals but if not, the proposals need to be brought back to the groups that made the proposals in the first place and bartering then takes place until agreement is reached. This process could take a long time as we all can see that changes will need to be made to protect our shared environment and biodiversity. Given the urgency of matters we have collected the proposals from the farming groups and other groups with an environmental remit. The vast majority of these proposals are not new as they have been proposed several times over for past CAP negotiations but apparently they have been rejected by the Joint Committee of Agriculture.

The current mediators for the Environmental Pillar have all been invited to attend the meeting in Cloughjordan on July 16th. We are calling for clarification because despite our best efforts to date we cannot find minutes of any environmental issues that have been debated and it is therefore unclear which of our proposals have been accepted or rejected. The total funds for the 2023-2027 plan is 9.8 Billion Euros and to receive this the CAM must be agreed by January 2023.

So in light of all of this we will put proposals to the floor at the meeting in The Thomas McDonagh Centre in Cloughjordan on Saturday 16th July 2022 for agreement.

Breandán Ó Ceallaigh,

Sínte ag an Rúnaí Talmhaíochta

“Ar son na hÉireann agus a Clainne”