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Dear Minister,

Your services received recently a letter from the Director-General of DG Agriculture and Rural Development informing them, according to Article 118(3) of the Strategic Plan Regulation, of the observations on your Member State's proposal for the CAP Strategic Plan 2023 - 2027.

While observations and your comments will be discussed in detail in technical exchanges between our services in the context of the structured dialogue, I want to reassure you of my continued commitment to engage with you in this process at political level, with a view to approving your CAP Strategic Plan with the shortest possible delay. Against the background of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, it is essential to contribute to ensuring food security by giving farmers across the EU certainty on how CAP support will be allocated as of 2023.

I am fully aware that your CAP Strategic Plan proposal was prepared before Russia's invasion of Ukraine. As highlighted in the Communication "Safeguarding food security and reinforcing the resilience of food systems" as well as in the observation letter, we encourage you to use the CAP Strategic Plan to strengthen resilience of the sector and foster its adaptation to the new geo-political context.

In line with the Commission commitment to transparency, I remain committed to making the observation letters publically available. I am, however, open to receiving your written reaction on the key elements of the observations within 3 weeks and intend to publish them subsequently alongside our observations on all the CAP Strategic Plans received on time, unless you would object to publication of your reaction.

Yours faithfully,

Janusz Wojciechowski

Mr. Charlie McCONALOGUE Minister of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Agriculture House, Kildare Street Dublin 2