



VIRGINIJUS SINKEVIČIUS
Commissioner for Environment
Oceans and Fisheries

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Honourable Member, Dear Radan,

Thank you for your mail of 26 February 2024. First, I would like to thank you for your efforts and support to achieving a positive and balanced outcome on the revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

Please find below the information you have asked for.

The revision of the IED delivers a major component of the European Green Deal. This new legislation builds strong links between zero pollution, climate neutrality, and circular economy objectives, and increases the protection of health against the effects of pollution. Its focus on supporting innovation will help to guide optimal industrial investments necessary for Europe's transformation by 2050.

However, I understand that many questions have arisen from the potential impacts of the implementation of the revised Directive on agriculture. On the agricultural scope, let me therefore clarify that the current legislation already applies to the pig and poultry sectors. The revision extends such scope, to covering the 30% largest pig and poultry farms in the EU. The revised obligations will not apply to 70% of operators in the sector in the EU, and will not promote the concentration of those farms. Moreover, all organic pig farms as well as the whole cattle sector are also excluded.

The provisional agreement also includes several points worth pointing out, linked to simplification, reduction of administrative burdens for those large farms in the scope of the Directive and to the specificities of the different types of farms:

- Acknowledging the specificities of the processes and emission patterns of livestock farming, compared to industrial activities, Article 70c of the revised Directive enables Member States to introduce a simplified system covering both permitting and reporting, which would significantly reduce the administrative burden for farmers. It allows a simple registration of farms, instead of having them subject to individual permits, and does not require an environmental management system. This is a major simplification, including for farms already covered by the Directive.
- Reporting under the related Industrial Emissions Portal Regulation is also simplified, as Member States will have the possibility to authorise competent authorities to report on emissions on the concerned farmers' behalf. This represents a major opportunity for Member States to simplify existing regulatory regimes for farmers, compared to the current regime.
- The Operating Rules under Article 70i will not impose a 'one size fits all' approach, as the Directive requires to take into account the nature, type, size and density of livestock farms, the size of herds of single animal types in mixed farms, and the specificities of pasture-based rearing systems. They will be defined through a transparent and inclusive process, in direct cooperation with the sector, building on the best viable techniques currently used by farmers, and will provide indicative information on emerging techniques being developed by the sector. The outcome of the Strategic Dialogue on the future of EU agriculture will also feed this process.
- We want to give time to farmers to make - when needed - the relevant investments in their farms. Therefore, by virtue of Article 3(5), the concerned farmers will have a long transitional period to adapt, as the new Operating Rules will become applicable at the earliest in 2030-2032, depending on the size of the farm.

The Commission intends to carefully examine the impacts of this Directive on the concerned sectors and take appropriate measures if and where needed. The Directive commits us to deliver a three-step approach:

- Under Article 73(3), the Commission will report by end 2026 to the European Parliament and the Council on the need for further EU action to address the emissions from the livestock farming sector. This will take into account the specific features of livestock farming and the range of available instruments.
- The report will include an assessment of the need for further EU action to ensure that imported livestock products do not pollute more than those produced in the EU and to achieve a fairer international level playing field.
- In preparation of such report, the Commission will also carry out an assessment of the funding needs and of the financial tools available to support livestock farmers in reducing emissions. The assessment will identify possible funding gaps and, where appropriate, potential measures to support the concerned farmers in the implementation of the obligations set out in the revised Directive, without prejudging the prerogatives of the co-legislators for the adoption of the post 2027 Multiannual Financial Framework.

I would be glad to clarify these issues further orally at plenary prior to the vote.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Virginijus Sinkevičius

CC:

Mr. Pascal Canfin, MEP

Mr. Benoît Lutgen, MEP

Mr. Tomas Tobé, MEP