



Update on the CAP and IPARD

Mario Milouchev, Director in DG AGRI on rural development and pre-accession assistance (13th SEE ministerial meeting; Pristina, 12 November 2019)





Introduction

- The EU accession process requires patience, concentration of efforts, and a long-term dedication and commitment
- Our commitment to the EU perspective for the Western Balkans remains unchanged
- Advise you to mobilise your efforts even more



CAP reform and MFF

- Commission proposed three new draft Regulations for reforming the CAP
- The process of analyzing and refining the proposals by the co-legislators continues
- Future budgets for all EU policies are not yet fixed, including the CAP budget
- Transitional package proposed by the Commission on 31 October 2019



IPA III

- The Commission prepared an IPA III proposal last year – good progress made in the European parliament and Council
- Without knowing the overall budget – further progress remains blocked
- The Commission will draw-up a Programming Framework, which will contain 5 Thematic Windows



IPARD III

- We do not intend to change our programmes significantly
 - Modifying some indicators to be more in line with the new CAP
 - Introducing one or two new measures
- The lack of a basic legal framework makes our work more complicated
- Prepare for IPARD III by updating your sectoral analyses, revising your national agricultural and rural development strategies, and start reflecting on how you will modify IPARD Programmes



Progress with IPARD II (1)

- Good progress in all candidate countries
- Look for ways to improve and expand:
 - Processing of applications can be further accelerated
 - Stronger advisory services
 - Streamlining checks on reasonableness of the costs of projects
 - Ohrid and Becici workshops on IPARD implementation



Progress with IPARD II (2)

- Important to focus your efforts on successfully implementing the current calls
- Find resources to rationalise and increase efficiency and speed
- IPARD will be executed transparently, cleanly and correctly
- Entrustments for the Technical Assistance measure
- Consider widening your programmes: environmental protection and climate change mitigation and adaptation, which have been brought to the forefront of political agendas

Big changes in the EU institutions

- New European Parliament
- President-elect Ursula von der Leyen
- New Commissioners
- Agreement on the Multi-annual Financial Framework (when ?)
- New basic legal acts



“...I want to reaffirm the European perspective of the Western Balkans and I see an important role in the continued reform process across the region. We share the same continent, the same history, the same culture and the same challenges. We will build the same future together..”



Conclusions

- Regional cooperation is crucial for your success
- SWG is successfully contributing to regional reconciliation and a spirit of unity
- This year we have commissioned some relevant studies in the field of research:
 - Smallholders in the short-value chains
 - Research, innovation and technology transfer capacities
 - Agricultural policy developments

