

Ref. LETTER(26)00949[1] – MD/dd

To: The Permanent Representatives  
(Coreper II) of the EU Member States  
Cc: Environment and Agriculture  
attachés at the Permanent  
Representations to the EU in  
Brussels, Belgium

Brussels, 29 April 2026

**RE: Omnibus VIII – Ensuring meaningful simplification of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) for livestock farmers.**

Dear Ambassador,

Copa and Cogeca, representing European farmers and agri-cooperatives, would like to draw your attention to the implications of the revised Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) for pig and poultry producers and the crucial role that Omnibus VIII can play in delivering genuine simplification for livestock farming in Europe.

The revised IED will now bring a large number of small and medium-sized family pig and poultry farms into a framework originally designed for major industrial installations. This results from the way the new scope and thresholds have been defined, including the use of livestock units and aggregation rules, combined with the emerging design of Uniform Conditions for Operating Rules (UCOL). For many farms, this means industrial-type permitting, monitoring and investment obligations that are neither proportionate to their environmental footprint nor financially sustainable.

This situation risks undermining several core EU objectives at once. If left uncorrected, it will not only accelerate the closure of smaller family farms and drive further concentration of production within the EU, but also deepen a fundamental inconsistency in the Union's policy approach: while increasingly restrictive and administratively burdensome rules are being imposed on European livestock farmers, very large operators in third countries exporting to the EU are not subject to equivalent environmental constraints (and animal welfare constraints). It will also fuel frustration and resistance to environmental legislation in rural areas at a time when the EU needs farmers on board to transition to more sustainable systems.

At the same time, the Commission has announced a simplification initiative in the context of Omnibus VIII, explicitly recognising the need to reduce administrative burdens and support competitiveness in strategic sectors such as agriculture. We strongly believe that this initiative must include targeted corrections to the implementation of the IED for livestock farming if it is to deliver on its political promise.

We therefore respectfully invite Coreper II to give a clear political steer that the Omnibus VIII should explicitly tackle the unintended consequences of the revised IED for pig and poultry, by reviewing its scope of application to only include large pig and poultry farms.



Copa and Cogeca are fully committed to the EU's environmental and climate objectives and to continuous improvement in the livestock sector. Our concern is not with the ambition to reduce emissions, but with the need to use the Omnibus VIII simplification exercise to correct clear and documented unintended effects of the current framework, and to secure a fair, workable balance between environmental protection, food security, rural cohesion and competitiveness.

We would be grateful if you could take these considerations into account in your preparations for the forthcoming discussions on Omnibus VIII in the Antici group. We remain at your disposal to provide further information or to brief you and your services in more detail, should this be useful.

Yours sincerely,



Elli Tsiforou  
Copa-Cogeca's Secretary General

