

Land- en Tuinbouworganisatie Nederland

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Mr Janusz Wojciechowski
Commissioner for Agriculture & Rural Development
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
B1049 Brussels
Belgium

The Hague, 12 February 2020

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Dear Mr. Commissioner Wojciechowski,

On behalf of the Dutch Organisation for Agriculture and Horticulture, LTO Nederland, I am hereby addressing you concerning your tweets from this weekend, as described by Politico, and as visible in your Twitter-timeline.

We are highly astonished to read that you seem to consider *'intensive'* pig farming and cattle farming in countries like ours as posing a problem because *'agriculture will have to be sustainable'*.

Dutch farmers, mostly family-owned and operated farms that have been built over generations, are known for their innovative, entrepreneurial and forward looking vision. A vision that we were hoping, you as Commissioner could support: for Dutch farmers and growers the European Union is of vital importance. Around three-quarters of the export of Dutch agricultural products is destined to countries within the EU.

The European Green deal is ambitious, but so are we. We are leading because of our farmers. Farmers who, whilst continuously improving the quality of their products and productivity, at the same time raise the level of animal welfare, invest in sustainable measures and reduce the amount of antibiotics. Furthermore, Dutch farmers are continuously reducing environmental impacts. In this light it is very concerning that you suggest that livestock density is an indicator, or even a problem, for sustainability.

One must realize that the future of farming and food production is not created in a room in Brussels. It is created in the fields, in the stables and at the farms. We know the agricultural sector is close to your heart. We hope that you will have the courage and perseverance to stand up for all farmers, wherever in the EU they might be, and would very much welcome the opportunity to introduce you to the way we farm through a visit to Dutch farmers.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Marc Calon', with a horizontal line underneath.

Marc Calon

President LTO Nederland