



MINISTER
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, NATURE AND FOOD QUALITY

Virginijus Sinkevičius

The Hague, 23 december 2022
2588746

Dear Commissioner Sinkevičius,

With this letter I would like to confirm the receipt of your letter of December 19th, 2022. The concerns expressed in the letter regarding the implementation of the Derogation Decision of 30 September 2022 have been carefully analysed. I would like to reassure you that it is my sincere intention to implement the Decision and more importantly to meet its environmental targets as required. That would also be in the interest of the important challenge the Netherlands is facing of implementing as quickly as possible the National Programme on Rural Areas, which provides an integrated approach to reduce nitrogen emissions, restore nature, improve water quality and meet climate objectives. I am doing everything in my power to implement the conditions within the shortest possible time. I will make sure that the conditions set in the Commission's Derogation Decision will have their intended environmental effect as soon as possible.

My staff had a technical meeting with your services on December 14th 2022, where we discussed the legislative process we have to follow for implementing the several conditions mentioned in the Derogation Decision. As agreed in this meeting, we will inform the Commission in writing by mid-January on the progress of and the steps we are taking to fully implement the specific obligations to establish buffer strips and designate polluted zones, the 7th Nitrates Action Program as well as its addendum as soon as possible, which could be followed by a further technical meeting at the services level. I am confident this will address your concerns and show my full commitment to the process.



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In the meantime, with your support, I trust we can continue to work on the transition of the Dutch agricultural sector to meet the necessary environmental objectives.

Yours sincerely,

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Piet Adema