



Dacian CIOLOS

European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural development (2010-2014)

Minister of Agriculture and Rural development in Romania (2007-2008)

Summary

- **Senior European politician** with extensive executive experience, both as a Minister in the Romanian Government and as a European Commissioner. Key player in European affairs with long experience of working at senior level across all EU institutions.
- Mr Ciolos is a highly experienced negotiator. As a European Commissioner, he has built strategies at European and international level to generate political consensus around **new policies for food security, investments and growth in rural areas**. In addition to managing on a daily basis a 60 billion euro budget, he proposed and led a major reform of the most integrated policy at European level, the Common Agricultural Policy.
- Direct involvement at Ministerial level in the **enlargement of the European Union** to 28 Member States. In depth understanding of the functioning of the former Communist transition economies, and in European policies in the areas of agriculture, neighbourhood, development and international trade. Mr Ciolos has an extensive background in agronomic economics and longstanding international experience.
- As Commissioner, Mr Ciolos was responsible for the agricultural dimension of all international **trade negotiations** for the EU (both WTO negotiations and all free trade agreements) and for international agricultural policies, notably in the G20 and the FAO. He also worked extensively on the agricultural dimension of EU development policies.

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Political experience

During his term in office as a European Commissioner from 2010-2014, Dacian Cioloş was in charge of Europe's Common Agriculture Policy; this is a key area of European competency with significant powers transferred by EU Member States to the European Commission in the EU Treaty. The core rules governing agriculture policy and practices are set at European level, and the budget is administered by the Commission. The CAP sets the expenditure rules for a very significant budget indeed about 60 billion Euros per year, spent on direct payments, rural development and market measures.

As European Commissioner, Mr. Cioloş delivered a key reform of the CAP, notably by mainstreaming a much stronger set of sustainability principles into EU farm payments. The Ciolos reform has also redirected a significant part of EU rural development payments towards climate change & biodiversity protection. He has also, for instance, dramatically reduced our capacity to use what we call "export subsidies", disliked by developing countries because of their potential effect on world markets.

Dacian Cioloş has also been responsible for the agricultural component of EU international trade negotiations. He has been directly involved in completing free trade area negotiations with Southern and West Africa, Canada, Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, and Singapore. He has also been in the lead for the agricultural part of ongoing negotiations with the USA, Japan, Mercosur, and in the WTO.

Commissioner Cioloş has also taken a close interest in development issues. He has worked very closely with the Commissioner for Development, and together they have sought to bring agricultural issues back as a core development priority within our overseas programmes (the EU is the world's largest aid donor). He has worked closely with the FAO, for instance in promoting family farming models worldwide.

Before becoming EU Commissioner Mr. Cioloş was Romanian Minister of Agriculture. After 3 years as a special Ministerial Advisor and then State Secretary, he became Minister at a critical time, in order to enable Romania to fulfil the key conditions for accession to the EU and integration into the Common Agricultural Policy.

Professional experience

Before entering national politics, Mr Cioloş worked for a number of years as a consultant and coordinator for a series of agricultural restructuring and rural development projects, as part of Romania's transition towards democracy and a fully- fledged market economy. In parallel, he ran a number of studies on the ground in order to assess the role of professional agricultural organisations in promote that economic transition.

He is native Romanian & speaks fluent French and good English.

His academic background is as follows:

- October 2005: Certificate in Agricultural Trade Course, World Bank Institute and the University of Rome 3
- 1997: DEA - Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies - in Agricultural and Rural Economics, Montpellier SupAgro and University of Montpellier 1 France
- 1996: Certificat d'Etudes Supérieures Spécialisées in Environmental Agronomics Engineering, AgroCampus Ouest from Rennes France
- 1994: University Degree in Horticultural Engineering, Horticulture Faculty of the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Dacian Ciolos is a Member of the Board of Trustees of “Friends of Europe” – European Think-Tank www.friendsofeurope.org