

Recommendations for a future CAP

Summary

CEEweb has serious concerns about the current proposals for a reformed Common Agricultural Policy 2014-2020 and its potentials to provide livelihood to the rural people and maintain the ecosystem services for the long term sustainability of farming at the same time.

Despite the greatly appreciated aims about environmental integration, sustainable management of natural resources and balanced territorial development stated in the Commission's documents, the legislative proposals mostly focus on competitiveness without achieving a strong greening of the CAP, let alone realising a real reform towards sustainability.

While we see a radical reform of the CAP inevitable in the long term to ensure sustainability, significant steps for a strong and meaningful 'greening' of both CAP pillars are necessary already today. For this the discussions in the Agriculture and Fisheries Council and the European Parliament will be crucial to achieve. Thus CEEweb calls Member States and Members of the European Parliament to ensure that:

1. No reverse modulation is allowed by Member States from the 2nd to the 1st pillar. To ensure this the reduction of the differences of direct payments among Member States is implemented from 2014.
2. Minimum 50% of money in rural development is dedicated to environment and climate.
3. Direct payments are degressive and capped for bigger farms.
4. Direct payments include a 30% greening component.
5. Simplified small farm scheme is introduced to ease the administrative burden for small farmers.
6. Cross-compliance covers all agricultural areas including small farms in order to ensure that environmental legislation is enforced in all farms.
7. Cross compliance includes the Water Framework Directive and the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive without any delays.
8. The rules on cross compliance and permanent grassland clearly set the reference year for preserving permanent pastures at farm level to a year preceding 2011, in order to avoid serious permanent grassland losses in period 2011-2014.
9. The definition of permanent grassland allows eligibility for non-herbaceous grazed areas, which make up a significant part of Europe's High Nature Value farmland.
10. Effective crop rotation and crop diversification is ensured by amending the balance of the three crops, proposed in the legislative proposals, to dominant crop under 50% of the farm surface, and smallest crop over 10%, including one leguminous crop.
11. Ecological Focus Areas cover at least 10% of farms, which can also reduce farm income loss compared to the 7% EFA (farm income decrease is on average the half with 10% set-aside than with 5% set-aside according to the Commission's impact assessment).
12. EFAs only include among afforested areas only those that are under close to nature management.
13. Farmland in Natura 2000 and High Nature Value areas receive a top up payment.
14. No coupled support is given to energy crops and arable crops.