



Reform of the European Agricultural Policy

N **O** **W** or **N** **E** **V** **E** **R**

www.greens-efa.eu

GREENS

IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CALL FOR:

1

A FAIR CAP

20% of farm holdings still receive
80% of all direct payments under
the CAP.

In all member states, a handful of mainly large agro-industrial producers are being paid more than €€00,000 per year - mainly to be more competitive and grow. In France, the 160 biggest farm holdings receive €123 million, the same amount as the total receipts of 100,000 smaller French farmers. One crucial step to addressing this would be to set a ceiling for farm based payments at a level of €€00,000 per year. This would allow for €€ billion to be redistributed between member states and farmers. This money should be used for promoting the shift to sustainable farming and long-term employment in rural economies. There is also a need to totally abandon unfair trade practices like export subsidies. Instead, the right to food for all should be realised through local food systems in developing countries and fair trade conditions. Fairness and solidarity should be the foundations of the European Union. The CAP has been a core element of European food security and political integration. It must again become the basic social contract between farmers and citizens.



1

2

3

4

5

6

The CAP should be reformed to help farmers and citizens to choose sustainable farming and food. Organic farming must become a forerunner for future farming and should no longer be treated as a privilege for a few. CAP should promote crop rotation and not incentivise monocultures. This would help reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers, consequently reducing greenhouse gases linked to agriculture. Managing biodiversity within farming, improving soil fertility, water protection and animal welfare should be the basis of long term productivity and food security. Cows need good pasture and home grown proteins, not imported GM soya feed. The size of animal herds should be balanced with the amount of land that can sustainably support them, instead of overloading animals into cramped factories and cages. Greening the CAP means phasing out all unsustainable farming practices, which rely on imported feed, oil, pesticides and antibiotics. We want farming and food systems that are good for people and nature.

2

A GREEN CAP

CAP should promote crop rotation and not incentivise monocultures.



GREENS

IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CALL FOR:

3

A YOUNG CAP

More than 7 million farmers will disappear in the next 10 years.



A policy only gets old if new ideas are being ignored. Young people have disappeared in farming and rural communities because the political dogma of “grow or go” has emptied the countryside and left an aging rural population.

In Europe, only 6% of farmers are younger than 35, while 80% are older than 55. More than 7 million more farmers will disappear in the next 10 years without successors if the CAP remains unchanged. If villages die out, if schools close, if medical care is not secured, there is simply no place for young families, - including the most competitive young farmers. This should alarm policy-makers.

The CAP should be used to make rural life not only attractive for ‘competitive’ young farmers but also for newcomers. It should support cooperation between small farmers, community farming, better access to land and training in sustainable practices. This way, the CAP can promote decent work in local and efficient food chains. Instead of consigning rural life to the past, solidarity between generations and active generational renewal should be a new European priority.

1

2

3

4

5

6



4

A DEMOCRATIC CAP

The CAP should help to reconnect farmers and citizens and promote local food chains.

Citizens not only have the right to know how the €100 they contribute to the CAP via taxation annually is being used, they also have a right to a CAP which addresses their concerns about public health, animal welfare and nature protection. Farmers do not want to depend on subsidies, but on a fair income for the food they produce and the other public goods they provide for all.

A democratic CAP should strike a fair balance: preventing speculation on foodstuffs and making markets work so that farmers get a fair price

for what they produce. The CAP should help to reconnect farmers and citizens and promote local food chains. It should provide transparency and information to citizens about policy-making and ways to influence decision-makers. We need a new rural development governance which actively supports farmers and rural citizens to regain control over their economical and cultural lives, instead of leaving policy-making to the strategies of multinational trading firms and supermarket chains.

GREENS

IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CALL FOR:

5

A HEALTHY CAP

Good food is fresh, tasty and free of unhealthy residues

Public health and good food quality should be at the heart of a new CAP. Farm and food policies must be reoriented away from the destructive spiral of producing and consuming ever more. Good food is fresh, tasty and free of unhealthy residues. The dependence of factory farming on antibiotics in feed and treatments is undermining

public health and the security of human medicine. This dependence should be ended and the CAP should aim to promote the nutrient cycles of agro-ecological food systems. It should include training and active support to farmers for working with nature instead of fighting against it. The CAP should end the outrageous amounts of food waste by shortening food chains and promoting balanced diets for sufficient food instead of creating systematic surpluses.

A healthy CAP would be a more sensible, more agronomic, more culture-based and much cheaper farm, food and health policy. It would tap the great diversity of farmers' knowledge and consumers' tastes. It will bring us back to a healthy respect for the food we produce and eat.



1

2

3

4

5

6



6

AN EASY CAP

The CAP should not complicate farmers' lives

The main battle cry against a proper reform of the CAP is that it would lead to "more bureaucracy". The reality is that many governments and administrations have created inefficient and burdensome bureaucratic procedures and now blame Brussels for making farmers' lives difficult.

The CAP should not complicate farmers' lives but it should not make it easy for farmers or agro-industries to break laws on the environment, animal welfare or public health. It should involve more efficient controls and sanctions, based on the polluter pays principle.

The CAP should not give public money to insurance companies to reduce the risk of harvest loss. It should support farmers in improving precautionary measures against natural and market risks. This will make life easier for those who accept the necessary move towards more sustainable farming and food systems and will make it harder for those who break the rules.



The new CAP must be fair, green, young, democratic, healthy and easy, - or it will not be. **THE OLD CAP IS ALREADY DEAD.** It is unfair, unsustainable, sclerotic, undemocratic, unhealthy and bureaucratic. Not reforming the CAP would be a fundamental blow to European identity and solidarity, whilst playing into the hands of nationalist politicians. European farmers and citizens are rediscovering the value of food and the values of solidarity. This requires organising sustainable farm and food networks and citizens' initiatives. **CAP REFORM IS NOW - OR NEVER.**

The Greens/EFA in the
European Parliament

60, rue Wiertz
1047 Brussels
Belgium

www.greens-efa.eu

