

The EU Consultation on modernising and simplifying the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)





The **CAP (Common Agricultural Policy)** is the set of EU rules aimed at the development of a uniform agricultural sector across the EU.

The Treaty on the European Union (art 39) specifies that the objectives of the Common Agricultural Policy shall be:

- (a) to increase agricultural productivity...;*
- (b) to ensure a fair standard of living for the agricultural community...*
- (c) to stabilise markets;*
- (d) to assure the availability of supplies;*
- (e) to ensure that supplies reach consumers at reasonable prices.*

+ Coherence with the overall objectives of the Union

+ Concerns about climate change and issues such as biodiversity loss, water and soil quality mean that agriculture also plays an increasingly important role in the sustainable management of natural resources.



The CAP annual budget is roughly €59 billion, to support measures through the *European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)* and the *European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)*, notably:

- **Direct payments** to help stabilize farmers incomes (they include the **greening measures**: sustainable agricultural practices regarding soil quality, biodiversity and carbon sequestration)
- **Market measures** if normal market forces fail (it also includes promotion of EU farm products)
- **Rural development programmes** to invest in individual projects on farms or in other activities in rural areas, on the basis of economic, environmental or social priorities designed at national or regional level.



CAP's STEPS:

- developed in the early sixties
- several waves of reforms
- latest reform in 2013 (**program 2014-2020**) - new CAP really started in 2015 and many of the rural development programmes came later



New context from the last CAP reform:

- Agricultural prices fall and market uncertainty
- New international commitments : e.g. concerning climate change (COP21) and sustainable development (through the UN's Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs)
- Market, Trade negotiations (from multilateral to bilateral deals)

Critics:

- Complexity, ...
- Market, Support measures, ...
- Environment, health, organic, fairtrade, ...
- ...



CAP's STEPS:

- Commission 2017 work programme: **“Take forward work and consult widely on simplification and modernisation of the Common Agricultural Policy to maximise its contribution to the Commission’s ten priorities and to the Sustainable Development Goals”**
 - Consultation 2 February – 2 May 2017
 - Conference with consultation outcomes: 7 July 2017
 - White paper: fall 2017
 - Legislative proposals: 2018



In parallel:

Budget debate (Multi-Annual Financial Framework – MFF)

- White paper: end of 2017

- Proposals: 2018

EU elections: 2019

Elections in different key Member States: France, Netherlands, Germany, ...



While the future of the CAP is already debated in various instances, the process will include **a broad consultation and an impact assessment.**

The goal is to summarize *available evidence on the performance* of the CAP so far, draw *lessons* from the implementation of the latest reform, have a *structured dialogue*, confirm what the current *difficulties* are, and anticipate *needs* for modernization and simplification of the CAP.

This questionnaire is part of this wide consultation process and will contribute to the impact assessment.

Results of this questionnaire will be published on EU webpage and communicated in a public conference in July 2017.

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http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/consultations/cap-modernising/2017_en

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/FutureCAP>



**The survey
is
available
in all EU
languages**



Survey's **STRUCTURE**

34 QUESTIONS

- A. ABOUT YOU
- B. AGRICULTURE, RURAL AREAS AND THE CAP TODAY
- C. OBJECTIVES AND GOVERNANCE
- D. AGRICULTURE, RURAL AREAS AND THE CAP TOMORROW
- E. WRAP UP: MODERNISATION AND SIMPLIFICATION



WHO CAN ANSWER:

- Individual in own personal capacity
- Individual in own professional capacity
- Organization



Why could be important to participate to this consultation:

High number of answers = strong message to EU (ex. Natura2000 Fitness check)

Key points for us to take in consideration in answering:

Environment, biodiversity, sustainability...



Timing:

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SOME POSSIBLE SUGGESTIONS:

The ***Living Land campaign*** is promoted by **BirdLife Europe & Central Asia**, the **European Environmental Bureau (EEB)** and **WWF EU** and aims to offer some indications for the survey.

"A reformed CAP must be:

- ***Fair*** – for farmers and rural communities.
- ***Environmentally Sustainable*** – for clean air and water, healthy soil, and thriving plant and animal life.
- ***Healthy*** – for good food and the well-being of all people.
- ***Globally Responsible*** – for the planet's climate and sustainable development around the world."



The ***Living Land campaign*** aims to offer some indications for the survey.

For each question:

Question - Recommended answer – Rational/Comments

<https://www.living-land.org/campaign/>



YOUR INPUTS/SUGGESTIONS/INDICATIONS ON THE SURVEY

ARE VERY

WELCOME

- **To help us to have, possibly, an EUROPARC position for the survey**
- **To help us to participate to the debate in Brussels profiting of your expertise, competences and experiences**
- **To discuss with farmers al local level**