

International Federation  
of Organic Agriculture Movements  
EU Regional Group

PRESS RELEASE

**Member States must set out concrete solutions to deliver an ambitious CAP reform**

BRUSSELS, 29 JANUARY 2018 – Agricultural Ministers today had a first of a series of in-depth exchanges, under the Bulgarian EU Presidency, on the European Commission’s Future of Food and Farming Communication. IFOAM EU considers that, to secure an effective and efficient CAP Post-2020, Member States must take an active part in shaping a reform that enables farmers to transition towards more sustainable farming systems and is backed by a strong EU budget.

While the majority of Agricultural Ministers welcomed the overall approach set out in the Commission’s Communication, they outlined significant reservations that a new CAP with greater responsibility on Member States could increase the administrative burden for both Member States and farmers.

Jan Plagge, IFOAM EU, Vice-President: “Many Agriculture Ministers today acknowledged that the Commission Communication moves the CAP in the right direction by taking a more integrated approach to EU policy and introducing Strategic Plans covering both Pillar 1 and 2. Such flexibility has the potential to reach EU objectives more efficiently, and now it is time for the Member States to find concrete solutions, together with farmers and citizens, for developing effective strategic plans that can ensure an ambitious implementation of EU objectives and UN Sustainable Development Goals”.

Eduardo Cuoco, IFOAM EU, Director: “To guarantee strong investment in the EU agriculture sector Post-2020, Member States must call for an explicit link between farm income support and reaching common EU environmental and socio-economic objectives for sustainable agriculture to be enshrined in the next EU budget framework. Growing demand for organic food amongst EU consumers, and a proven track record in public goods delivery, shows that investment in organic farming can support efforts to shift the EU towards more integrated models of sustainable growth, that work for farmers, citizens, and the environment.”

*Ends.*

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**Notes for editors:**

IFOAM EU represents more than 190 member organisations in the EU-28, the EU accession countries and EFTA. Member organisations span the entire organic food chain and beyond: from farmers and processors organisations, retailers, certifiers, consultants, traders and researchers to environmental and consumer advocacy bodies.