

PRESS RELEASE

**CORK 2.0 DECLARATION: STRONG POLITICAL COMMITMENT ON PUBLIC GOODS PAYMENTS NEEDED TO TURN WORDS INTO REALITY**

**Cork, Ireland, 6 September 2016** – Today, at the Cork Conference on Rural Development, EU policymakers and stakeholders proposed a Declaration on the future of EU Rural Development Policy setting out a renewed approach for tackling the multiple challenges facing rural areas (1). This declaration comes at a time where there is growing recognition that EU agriculture and rural policy can no longer continue business as usual, including a recent report from EU Commission President Juncker’s special Senior Advisor for Sustainable Development (2). The organic movement welcomes the affirmation of the need for greater investment in environmental public goods and demands a clear commitment from EU leaders to work towards fundamental change of the existing policy framework that turns the nice words set out in the Declaration into reality.

Thomas Fertl, IFOAM EU Board Member said: “Ongoing price volatility facing European farmers shows that the existing approach of EU policies to align agriculture practice with globalized markets is not a solution for supporting rural viability. To truly confront the multiple challenges facing rural areas, there must be recognition of the value agriculture can deliver to communities, such as jobs, biodiversity, soil and water quality. Concretely moving in this direction would work both in the interests of farmers and rural dwellers, and in the end taxpayers.”

Gillian Westbrook, IFOAM EU Council Member added: “The resilience of European farming is becoming more and more critical for rural areas. For too long environmental and social performance has been neglected, with short-term policy fixes simply propping up a failing agriculture model. The next CAP reform must promote a full transition to sustainable farming in order to support rural livelihoods and high-quality food production in Europe.”

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**FURTHER INFORMATION**

**Study - CAP 2014-2020: Organic farming and the prospects for stimulating public goods**

[Executive summary](#)

[Full Text](#)

Please cite as: Stolze, M., Sanders, J., Kasperczyk, N., Madsen G., (2016): CAP 2014-2020: Organic farming and the prospects for stimulating public goods. IFOAM EU, Brussels.

1. Cork 2.0: European Conference on Rural Development. More information available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/events/rural-development-2016\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/events/rural-development-2016_en.htm)
2. Falkenberg, K., Sustainability Now! European Political strategy centre (EPSC), July 2016. More information at:

IFOAM EU represents more than 160 member organizations in the EU-28, the EU accession countries and EFTA. Member organizations 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.