

Press Release

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements – EU Regional Group

Missed chance: MEPs fail to use new powers for a real CAP reform

Strasbourg, 13/03/2013 – Today, the European Parliament adopted its position on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The vote is an improvement on the proposal made by the Parliament's Agriculture Committee. However, MEPs missed the chance to make greening a real priority.

"Throughout the EU, citizens are calling for a greener and fairer CAP (1). For the first time the European Parliament has law making powers (2) in the CAP reform process. At least the Parliament rejected the introduction of numerous unjustified exemptions from greening, but it still watered down greening measures significantly. It is also unfortunate that the Parliament has failed to use its new powers to fully represent citizens' wishes and significantly 'green' the CAP, for example by strengthening measures for advanced sustainability such as agri-environment, organic farming and introducing crop rotation for all," criticises Christopher Stopes, President of IFOAM EU Group (3).

Jan Plagge, Chair of the IFOAM EU Farmer Sector Group, adds: "Especially with regard to the growing pressure on the EU budget, the CAP must be used to help reach European objectives. The European Parliament missed the chance to allocate European tax payers' money to measures that promote sustainable, smart and inclusive economies in rural areas, and the enhancement of biodiversity, soils and water quality."

"While we welcome the explicit support schemes for organic farming and agri-environment-climate measures in the second pillar, we regret that the ring-fencing of 25% of the RD budget for these measures has not been significantly increased," says IFOAM EU Vice President Thomas Fertl. "It is moreover highly unfortunate that MEPs have not fully approved the Commission's support mechanisms for increasing organically farmed land in Europe, but voted to increase the baseline used to calculate the compensation payments for services provided by organic farmers. We hope that the amendment adopted by the EP will be corrected during the following steps."

"The new measures introduced under pillar 2, such as costly insurance schemes and the income stabilisation tool, threaten to hijack large parts of the rural development budgets," adds Andrea Ferrante, IFOAM EU Vice President. "This will lead to a significant reduction of measures that enhance environmental performance of farms and contribute to the viability and economic sustainability of rural societies. We will continue to fight for a greener CAP during the inter-institutional negotiations and at Member State level."

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NOTES:



- (1) "[Farms instead of factories](#)" - IFOAM EU Group is part of the ARC2020 platform which demonstrated for a greener and fairer CAP on 12 March. see also: Eurobarometer 336 (2012): 87% of respondents supportive of new objective to link financial support farmers get with the compliance to certain rules regarding environmental protection, food safety and animal welfare (http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_336_en.pdf)
- (2) European Parliament and the Lisbon Treaty, see: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/aboutparliament/en/0042423726/Parliament-and-the-Lisbon-Treaty.html>
- (3) The **IFOAM EU Group** represents more than 160 member organizations in the EU-27, the EU accession countries and EFTA. Member organizations include consumer, farmer and processor associations; research, education and advisory organizations.