

Press Release

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements – EU Regional Group

MEPs rubber stamp a CAP without ambition

Small steps for greener and fairer CAP must be realised in implementing rules

Brussels, 20/11/2013 – Today the European Parliament backed the agreements reached by EU Institution negotiators on the CAP reform 2014-2020 and approved the EU budget under the Multi-annual Financial Framework for the next seven years. By ratifying these packages the European Parliament missed the opportunity to fulfil the demands of EU citizens (1) for a greener and fairer agricultural policy.

“In the end the Parliament has chosen to ignore citizens’ calls for greater agricultural sustainability by rubber stamping a much weaker approach to greening of direct payments under Pillar 1 and accepting dramatic cuts to the rural development budget under Pillar 2 over the next seven years,” said Christopher Stopes, IFOAM EU President (2). “This is despite the fact that the European Parliament was strongly advocating that all farmers in receipt of direct aid be required to fulfil minimum greening criteria, and for advanced sustainability in Pillar 2 to be prioritised, at the start of the EU Institution negotiations on CAP. The end result is bad for a more democratic, inclusive and sustainable farming policy”.

“MEPs have still the chance to push the Commission for good detailed rules in the accompanying delegated acts to enforce steps towards a greener and fairer CAP,” said Thomas Fertl, IFOAM EU Vice President. “CAP delegated acts must incentivise more farmers to increase their sustainability and to convert to organic farming. Recognising organic farming as *green by definition* under Pillar 1 should in no way penalise farmers, by making deductions to Pillar 2 organic production payments in order to avoid the risk of double funding. This would put into question the EU’s commitment to organic farming as a systematic approach to sustainability that goes beyond the scope of greening (2). Furthermore, any attempts to permit the use of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides on ecological focus areas must be clearly rejected.”

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NOTES:

- 1) Eurobarometer, 2011 ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_368_en.pdf
- 2) **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
- 3) Organic Approaches to Rural Development Policy Factsheets, IFOAM EU Group 2012 www.ifoam-eu.org/positions/factsheets/Pdf/Envi_Delivery_RD.pdf