

EU leaders must raise ambitions to make the future CAP sustainable

Cypriot progress report and current European Parliament draft compromises on the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) lack ambitions to deliver an effective, well financed policy for a sustainable farming future

Brussels, 19/12/2012 – IFOAM EU Group (1) observes with concern that the Council progress report and the compromises unveiled by the European Parliament Agriculture Committee this week lack ambition to come to a real reform for a substantially greener and fairer CAP post-2013 (2).

"Current progress shows that the Council and the Agriculture Committee aim to weaken the proposed CAP greening. We reject the excuse of many EU politicians that, in the age of austerity, Europe will have to wait for greener and fair outcomes for farmers and citizens", says Marco Schlüter, IFOAM EU Group Director. "EU leaders must finally ensure that we have a food and farming policy that delivers sustainability across both pillars. The environmental performance of all farmers must be raised through a solid greening package as a condition for direct payments in Pillar 1 instead of introducing untested and questionable certification schemes, whilst a well-funded Pillar 2 must focus on instruments that can enhance the overall sustainability and the long-term viability of our farming and rural areas(3)."

"Rural Development as the second pillar of the CAP is crucial to move farms and rural areas towards ecological, economic and social sustainability. Farm Ministers must raise ambitions now to defend the Rural Development budget", adds Antje Kölling, IFOAM EU Group Policy Manager. "Agro-ecological approaches, such as organic farming, increase the sustainability of farming, deliver high quality food and help to create employment in rural areas. Therefore EU leaders should prioritise organic farming, high nature value farmland and agri-environment-climate in rural development spending. The upcoming Irish EU Presidency, Farm Ministers and the European Parliament must use the next six months to turn limited progress around by supporting a CAP that drives sustainability across the farming sector."

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Footnotes:

- (1) The **IFOAM EU Group** represents more than 300 member organisations of IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) in the EU-27, the EU accession countries and EFTA. Member organisations include consumer, farmer and processor associations; research, education and advisory organisations; certification bodies and commercial organic companies.
- (2) Agriculture Council discuss Cypriot Presidency CAP Progress Report on 19 Dec 2012 <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/12/st17/st17592-co01.en12.pdf>; European Parliament Agriculture Committee presented CAP compromises in Press Conference on the 18 Dec 2012
- (3) Find out more about the CAP reform and IFOAM EU's position via this website: <http://www.ifoam-eu.org/workareas/policy/php/CAP.php>