



Media advisory:

More than 270 civil society organizations call for a CAP reform that supports sustainable farming and rural areas - not business as usual

Brussels, Wednesday 28 February 2013 Today an open letter signed by over 270 organisations from across Europe was sent to all Members of the European Parliament (MEPs)[1]. The letter voices Civil Society's concerns on the current reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and how it has been poorly managed by the European Parliament's Agriculture and Rural Development Committee (AGRI Committee), in the lead up to the plenary vote planned on 13 March.

The vote on 13 March is crucial as it now gives all MEPs, for the first time, the power and opportunity to cast their ballot on the CAP, which makes up 40% of the EU budget [2]. The AGRI Committee failed to make forward-looking decisions that would improve the long-term viability of farming, address economic and social problems in our rural communities and safeguard food security. If this position were to be confirmed, money would continue to flow to subsidies which negatively affect our environment, jobs, good farming practices, our health, developing countries and animal welfare [3].

The signatories represent more than 270 organisations: from farming to animal welfare, environment, church, development and health organisations, and utilities [4]. These organisations all call for the public interest to be genuinely taken into account when voting on the CAP reform in March. The European Parliament has already proven that it can make the right choices for the environment, society and the green economy, most recently with the plenary vote on the Common Fisheries Policy's Basic Regulation.

For BirdLife Europe, the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), the IFOAM EU Group and WWF, turning this policy around would mean that MEPs vote for change in the following way:

*"More than 270 civil society organisations in Europe, representing tens of millions of citizens, are not to be ignored. The AGRI Committee vote only reflected vested interests and not the public interest." **Faustine Defosse, EEB agriculture policy officer** said. "Members of the European Parliament should not disregard the citizens' call but should instead vote in Plenary for a greening, which includes compulsory measures for all farmers who receive subsidies, and ensure that our money is used for the common good." She added.*

Sébastien Godinot, Economist at WWF European Policy Office states: *"The European Parliament Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development has voted through a proposal to pay farmers twice for exactly the same environmental measure. This is one of the measures the Plenary must oppose. Not only is it illegal under EU law, but it could result in billions of euros a year taken from environment programmes that are already suffering from budgets cuts. The loss will be directly felt as farming will carry on with a business as usual attitude while squandering chances to tackle problems like climate change and the loss of biodiversity."*

*"It is astonishing to see that a majority of the members in the AGRI Committee do not share the view that you should respect European legislation when receiving subsidies," states **Trees Robijns, EU Agriculture and Bioenergy Policy Officer at BirdLife Europe**. "NGOs from across Europe feel that this type of behaviour cannot continue. We need to see the European Parliament turn this around and make everybody equally respectful of the law."*

*"The AGRI Committee has chosen to place a disproportionate emphasis on costly income stabilization insurance schemes that encourage risk taking and only benefit insurance companies. Instead comprehensive sustainable farming approaches need to be clearly embedded in Pillar 2, building on strong greening requirements in Pillar 1" said **Stephen Meredith, IFOAM EU Group Policy Coordinator**. "MEPs must shift the CAP towards greater ecological, economic and social sustainability by prioritising environmental investments and social and economic improvements. To push for*



change, thematic sub-programmes for HNV and organic farming need to be established, as they both bring together support from all rural development measures.”

- END -

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Notes to the editor:

[1] Link to the open letter in [French](#), [German](#) and [English](#)

http://www.birdlife.org/community/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/EP-Open-letter-on-CAP-with-logos_EN.pdf

[2] For the first time, the Common Agricultural Policy is decided through co-decision process.

[3] If you would like to get more information, take a look at the following [Infosheet on the CAP](#)

<http://www.birdlife.org/community/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Policy-brief-Final.pdf>

[4] The 276 signatories are:

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Acção, Liberdade, Desenvolvimento, Educação, Investigação, Ambiente
IDEA

Acció Ecologista Agro

Acciónatura

Agir pour l'Environnement

AIAB

Aliadas Por La Soberanía Alimentaria

Alka Wildlife

Alliance of Associations Polish Green Network

Amigos de la Tierra España

Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

An Taisce – the National Trust for Ireland

Animal Action Greece

APS Aqua Crisius Oradea

Arc 2020

Arche Noah

Asociación Acima. Comunicación e Información Medioambiental

Asociación Concejo de la Mesta

Asociación Cultural Caldero Mágico

Asociación de Agricultura y Ganadería Ecológica “La Tanganilla”

Asociación de Consumidores Ecológicos La Tierrallana

Asociación de Forestales de España

Asociación de Pastores/as La Gaiata

Asociación Defensa de la Cultura y la Naturaleza (ADECUNA)

Asociación Fotografía Y Biodiversidad

Asociación Galega de Custodia del Territorio

Asociación Geográfica Ambiental

Asociación La Raya

Asociación Montaña De Babia y Luna

Asociación Nacional para la Defensa de los Animales



Asociación para el Estudio y Mejora de los Salmónidos (AEMS-Ríos Con Vida)
Asociación para la Recuperación del Bosque Autóctono (ARABA)
Asociación Pastores por el Monte Mediterráneo Asociación De Pastores/as La Gaiata
Asociación Silvema Serranía de Ronda
Asociación Territorios Vivos
Asociación Trashumancia y Naturaleza
Asociación Tudanca
Asociación Valor Ecológico
Asociatia Altitudine
Asociatia Centrul de Ecologie si Turism Maramures
Asociația Grupul de Inițiativă "Radu Anton Roman"
Asociatia Salvati Dunarea si Delta
Asociatia Terra Ecologica
Asociatia Tura in Natura Sibiu
Associació Valenciana de Custòdia i Gestió Responsable del Territori
Association 4D
Association of Ecotourism in Romania (AER)
Association of World Council of Churches related Development Organisations in Europe
Associazione per L'Agricoltura Biodinamica
Aves
Bat Conservation Trust
BirdLife Austria
Birdlife Cyprus
BirdLife Europe
BirdLife Finland
BirdLife Malta
Birdlife Slovenia
BirdWatchIreland
Bond Beter Leefmilieu
Buglife
Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds
Bumblebee Conservation Trust
Butterfly Conservation Europe
Butterfly Conservation UK
Calla - Association for Preservation of the Environment
Campaign for Real Farming
Campaign to Protect Rural England
CEE Bankwatch Network
CEEweb for Biodiversity
Centre for Food Policy, City University London
Centre for sustainable alternatives
Centre for Transport and Energy
Centre of environmental and ethical education Živica
Centro Ibérico De Restauración Fluvial
Centrul pentru Resurse Civice
Centrum rozvoje Česká Skalice
Children of the Earth
Church of Sweden
CIVAM
Climate Action Network Europe
Clubul de Cicloturism 'NAPOCA'
Čmelák
Comisiones Obreras (CC.OO) Federación Agroalimentaria
Compassion in world farming
Confederación de Consumidores y Usuarios (CECU)
Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels Languedoc-Roussillon
Convivium Amalur Gipuzkoa Donostia
Convivium Slow Food València
Cooperativa Olivarera Los Pedroches
Czech Society for Ornithology
Danish Ecological Council
Danish Ornithological Society



DAPHNE CZ - Institute of Applied Ecology
Deutscher Naturschutzring
Deutscher Verband für Landschaftspflege e.V. (DVL)
Dierenartsen Zonder Grenzen
Dierenbescherming
Djurens Rätt
Dyrenes Beskyttelse
EATING CITY
EcEC
Eco Ruralis
Ecoinstitut
Ecologie, Développement Durable, Démocratie
Ecologistas en Acción
EcoNexus
Ekologiska Lantbrukarna
Estonian Fund for Nature
Estonian Ornithological Society
Ethisch Verantwoord Alternatief
Eurogroup for Animals
Euronatur
Europarc Federation
European Community of Consumer Co-operatives
European Environmental Bureau
European Federation of National Associations of Water Services
European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism
European Public Health Alliance
European Public Health and Agriculture Consortium
Federacion Andaluza de Consumidores y Productores Ecológicos
Federación de Asociaciones de Vecinos El Ciudadano de Toledo
Federación Estatal de Pastores
Fédération Inter-Environnement Wallonie
Fédération Nationale d'Agriculture Biologique
Federation of Environmental Organizations of Cyprus
FIAN Belgium
Finnish Federation for Animal Welfare Associations
FIRAB
Focus Eco Center
Fondation Nicolas Hulot pour la nature et l'homme
Fondo Ambiente Italiano
Fondo Amigos del Buitre
FORO DE REDES Y ENTIDADES DE CUSTODIA DEL TERRITORIO – FRECT
Fondo para la Protección de los Animales Salvajes (FAPAS)
Food Matters
Forest Stewardship Council - Spain
Foro Asturias Sostenible
Four Paws
France Nature Environnement
Friends of the Earth Cyprus
Friends of the Earth England
Friends of the Earth Europe
Friends of the Earth- CEPA
Fundación Ecología y Desarrollo
Fundación Félix Rodríguez De La Fuente
Fundación Global Nature
Fundación Internacional para la Restauración de Ecosistemas
Fundación Migres
Fundación Oso Pardo
Fundación por una Nueva Cultura del Agua
Fundación Quebrantahuesos
Fundación Tormes-EB
Fundatia Adept
Garden Organic



Génération Futures
Glopolis
Greeninitiative Association
Greenpeace
Greenpeace Spain
Grupo de Acción para el Medio Ambiente (GRAMA)
Grupo de Rehabilitación de la Fauna Autóctona y de Su Hábitat, (GREFA)
Grupo Ornitológico Balear (GOB)
Red NCA Júcar
Health & environment Alliance
Hellenic Ornithological Society
HELLENIC RANGE AND PASTURE SOCIETY – HERPAS
Hungarian Ornithological and Nature Conservation Society
IFOAM EU Group
Instituto de Desarrollo Comunitario
International alliance of Catholic development agencies
Irish Doctors Environmental Association
Italia Nostra
La Fédération Nationale des Parcs Naturels Régionaux
Latvian Botanists Society
Latvian Ornithological Society
Le mouvement associatif de Terre de Liens
Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli
Legambiente
Les Amis de la Terre
Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux
Lithuanian Fund for Nature
Lithuanian Ornithological Society
Manos Unidas
MEDITERRANEAN SOS Network
Meine Landwirtschaft
Milieu Defensie
Mouvement Ecologique
Nabu
Natagora
National Trust
Natur & Umwelt
Natur och Miljö r.f.
Nature friends International
Naturfreunde Deutschlands
Naturfreunde Österreich
Natuurmonumenten
Natuurpunt
Netwerk Bewust Verbruiken
New Economics Foundation
Northern Ireland Environment Link
Oceana
Oeuvre d'Assistance aux Bêtes d'Abattoirs
Ökóburo
Organizatia ecologista Mare Nostrum
Oxfam
Oxfam Belgium
Pesticide Action Network Europe
Plantlife
Plataforma Contra la Especulación Urbanística y Ambiental de Candeleda
Plataforma de Toledo en Defensa del Tajo
Plataforma en Defensa de l'Ebre
Plataforma en Defensa de los Ríos Tajo y Alberche de Talavera de La Reina
Plataforma Jarama Vivo
Plataforma Salvemos el Henares
Polish Society for the Protection of Birds
PRO-BIO Association of organic farmers



Quercus - Associação Nacional de Conservação da Natureza
Raptor protection of Slovakia
Red Andaluza de Custodia del Territorio (Ínsulas)
Red Ciudadana por Una Nueva Cultura del Agua en el Tajo/Tejo y sus Ríos
Red de Semillas: Resembrando e Intercambiando
Red Española de Desarrollo Rural
Red Montañas
Red por una Nueva Cultura del Agua del Júcar
Reseau agriculture durable
Réseau Cohérence
Risteco
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Salmon and Trout Association
Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia
Slow Food
Slow Food Araba – Álava
Slow Food Gredos - Tiétar
Slow Food Madrid
Sociedad Española de Agricultura Ecológica
Sociedad Española de Ornitología – SEO/BirdLife
Sociedade Galega de Ornitología
Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves
SOCIETA' ITALIANA DI ECOLOGIA DEL PAESAGGIO
Societatea Carpatina Ardeleana – Satu Mare
Societatea Ornitologica Romana
SOS Perdiz Roja
Společnost pro zvířata
Suomen luonnonsuojeluliitto
Susila Dharma International Association
Sustainable Water Network
Swedish Ornithological Society
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
Terra Cypria
Terra-1530
The Finnish NGDO Platform to the EU
The Mammal Society
The Permaculture Association
The Swedish Consumers' Association
The Wildlife Trust
Touring Club Italiano
Transport & Environment
TRENCA
UGT FITAG Industria y Trabajadores Agrarios
UK Food Group
Umwelt dachverband
Unión Internacional de Conservación de la Naturaleza – Comité Español UICN
Union Nacional de Asociaciones de CAZA
UPBio - FederBio
Vereniging voor Ecologisch Leven en Tuinieren
Vogelbescherming Nederland
Voice Of Irish Concern for the Environment
Vredeseilanden
Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
WWF
Xarsa de Custòdi del Territori
Xarsa per Una Nova Cultura de L'Aigua
Xarxa de l'Observatori del Deute en la Globalització (ODG)
Xúquer Viu
Young Friends of the Earth Europe
Za Zemiata
ZO CSOP JARO Jaromer