FINAL

21 April 2017

# Public consultation on Modernising and Simplifying the CAP –FoodDrinkEurope response

**B. AGRICULTURE, RURAL AREAS AND THE CAP TODAY**

**1. Which are the most important challenges for EU agriculture and rural areas?**

*at most 3 choice(s)*

Fair standard of living for farmers

X Adaptation to trends in consumer/societal demands

Pressures on the environment and on natural resources

X Climate change (mitigation and adaptation)

X Lack of jobs and growth in rural areas

Uneven territorial development throughout the EU

**2. Which of the current CAP policy tools are best suited to meet the challenges identified above?**

*at most 5 choice(s)*

X Decoupled payments to farmers

Coupled support

X Support for Rural Development environment and climate actions in agriculture and rural areas

X Support for Rural Development investments in physical and human capital in agriculture and rural areas

Trade measures

X Market safety nets (e.g. market intervention)

Risk management schemes

Support for integration into producers' organisations

X Regulatory approaches (such as standards and rules)

**3. To what extent does the current CAP successfully address these challenges?**

To a large extent

To a fairly good extent

X To some extent only

Not at all

Don't know

**4. Which of the following do you think are the most important contributions of farmers in our society?**

*at most 3 choice(s)*

X Ensuring that enough food is available

Supplying healthy, safe and diversified products (quality of food)

X Protecting the environment (soils, water, air, biodiversity) and landscapes

Addressing climate change (both mitigation and adaptation)

Contributing to renewable energy

X Maintaining economic activity and employment in rural areas

Contributing to EU trade performance

Ensuring the health and welfare of farm animals

**5. To what extent do you agree with the following statement:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Largely agree* | *Partially agree* | *Partially disagree* | *Largely disagree* |
| Farm income is still significantly lower than the average EU income |  | X |  |  |
| EU farmers face stricter requirements than non-EU ones | X |  |  |  |
| Farmers get a limited share of the prices consumers pay |  | X |  |  |
| Farmers need to make heavy investments for their businesses to be viable |  | X |  |  |

**6. Which are the most important environmental challenges faced by agriculture?**

*at most 3 choice(s)*

X Reduction of soil degradation

X Protection of biodiversity

Preservation of genetic diversity such as traditional/old varieties and breeds

Reduction of water pollution

X Rationalise use of water

More sustainable use of pesticide and fertilisers

Decrease air pollution

Environmental risks such as fires, floods etc.

**7. To what extent does the current CAP successfully address these environmental challenges?**

To a large extent

To a fairly good extent

X To some extent only

Not at all

Don't know

**8. What are the main barriers to becoming a farmer?**

*at most 5 choice(s)*

Answers to be left blank

Low profitability

Lack of available land

High prices of land

Land regulation

Difficulties to access credit

Complexity of insurance schemes

Inheritance laws

Taxation

Administrative requirements

Access to updated knowledge/technologies

Image of the sector

**9. What do you see as major drivers for innovation in agriculture, forestry and the rural economy?**

*at most 5 choice(s)*

Access to vocational training and relevant information

Access to advisory services delivering farm-tailored solutions

X Dissemination of knowledge

X Financial /investment incentives / support for innovative projects

New technologies and agricultural inputs

Support for adjusting to new societal demands (i.e. nutritional guidelines)

X Support to the development of the circular economy

X Better involvement of producers throughout the value chains (up until the consumer)

X New partnerships between different actors (i.e. between farmers, civil society, researchers…)

Research and the provision of knowledge targeted to farmers' needs

**10. Since 2003, the Farm Advisory Service (FAS) aims at helping farmers to better understand and meet EU rules and good agricultural and environmental conditions. How would you characterise the current situation of the FAS in your respective territory, as regards…**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Satisfactory* | *Neutral* | *Not Satisfactory* | *Don't know* |
| Availability of advice |  |  |  | X |
| Access to advice |  |  |  | X |
| Quality of the service provided |  |  |  | X |
| Independence of advisors |  |  |  | X |
| Transfer of knowledge |  |  |  | X |
| Dissemination of new knowledge |  |  |  | X |

**11. To what extent did recent CAP reforms pay sufficient attention to Policy Coherence for Development?**

Answers to be left blank

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *To a large extent* | *To a fairly good extent* | *To some extent only* | *Not at all* | *Don't know* |
| Overall coherence with EU Development Policy and Humanitarian Action |  |  |  |  |  |
| EU exports to developing countries |  |  |  |  |  |
| EU imports from developing countries |  |  |  |  |  |
| Impact on local agricultural production in developing countries including land-use change |  |  |  |  |  |
| The availability and affordability of agricultural goods in developing countries |  |  |  |  |  |

**12. What are the main problems/obstacles preventing the current policy from successfully delivering on its objectives? What are the drivers behind these problems?**

*1500 character(s) maximum*

* **Market orientation of agriculture is not fully achieved, in terms of:**
  + **Aligning agricultural production with market demands.** The CAP is crucial for ensuring the supply of agricultural raw materials in the quantity and quality needed by the industry, but the food industry needs are not enough taken into account in the CAP. Proposals for the CAP: to let the market signals reach the farmer, there should be: no market intervention besides safety-nets; no measures that distort quantities or prices; dialogue and cooperation between farmers, the industry trickled down to the consumer; a food chain approach in all CAP measures.
  + **Fair competition conditions across markets and food chain operators**, partly due to the high number of derogations and exemptions from the general rules available for Member States and which result in different implementation of the CAP first pillar across the EU and partly due to the intervention on competition and contracts. Proposals: a common policy with common objectives; competition based on merits and free negotiations between the parties.
* **Agriculture resilience to market volatility can be further strengthened, without distorting competition on the market.**

**13. Which elements of the current CAP are the most burdensome or complex and why?**

*1500 character(s) maximum*

Answer to be left blank

**C. OBJECTIVES AND GOVERNANCE**

**14. The work of the European Commission focuses on 10 priorities for 2014-2020, most of which are relevant to the CAP** <http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/index_en> **Please indicate the most relevant priorities for which the CAP should do more.**

*at most 3 choice(s)*

X Boosting investment, growth and employment

X Improving connectivity and digitalisation of the rural economy

Mitigating and adapting to the impact of Climate Change and providing renewable energy

X Strengthening the EU Single Market

Participating in world trade

Help addressing challenges related to migration

**15. Which of the following should be the most important objectives of the CAP?**

*at most 5 choice(s)*

Ensuring a fair standard of living for farmers

X Addressing market uncertainties

X Foster competitiveness and innovation of agriculture

X Securing food supply at reasonable prices for consumers

Encouraging the supply of healthy and quality products

Contributing to a high level of environmental protection across the EU

X Mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change

X Developing rural areas while taking care of the countryside

Achieving a balanced territorial development

**16. Do you see the need to add objectives for a modernised CAP; if yes, which ones?**

*1500 character(s) maximum*

* A modernised CAP is a comprehensive and consistent policy that addresses all the objectives above in a coherent way, thus avoiding contradictory measures and signals for farmers.
* A modernised CAP should address “old” objectives in modern ways. E.g.: CAP support should be better linked to specific objectives (targeted); CAP should foster greater resilience of farmers in the face of more frequent market, climate and plant and animal health risks; CAP should reflect the urgency of addressing climate change and environment protection for instance by promoting innovative tools; CAP should help the dissemination of knowledge on different risk management strategies, including the use of derivatives markets; CAP should focus on the adoption of new advanced technologies and digitalisation instruments by farmers and agri-food SMEs; CAP should (further) help farmers address pressing social and environmental challenges, by encouraging the supply of safe and high quality raw materials which are produced in a more sustainable way; CAP should foster product innovation as well as take into account and protect traditional foods that are a key asset for Europe.

By considering these principles, the CAP will be in a position to contribute to the EU priorities for 2014-2020.

**17. Do you agree with the following statement: "It makes sense to have a Common Agricultural Policy because we need …"**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Largely agree* | *Partially agree* | *Partially disagree* | *Largely disagree* | *Don't know* |
| Common rules, as part of the Single Market (market organisation, trade, competition rules, food safety standards) | X |  |  |  |  |
| Common objectives to tackle cross-border challenges (food security, environment, climate change, biodiversity…) | X |  |  |  |  |
| A common budget as it is more efficient |  | X |  |  |  |
| Economic, social and territorial cohesion and solidarity among Member States | X |  |  |  |  |
| Common positions at international level making the EU a stronger global actor | X |  |  |  |  |
| A common framework for sharing best practices, research results, innovative ideas, mutual learning | X |  |  |  |  |

**18. At which level do you consider that the following CAP objectives should primarily be dealt with?**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *EU level* | *National level* | *Regional/ local level* | *Don't know* |
| Ensuring a fair standard of living for farmers | X |  |  |  |
| Addressing market uncertainties | X |  |  |  |
| Foster competitiveness and innovation of agriculture | X |  |  |  |
| Securing food supply at reasonable prices for consumers | X |  |  |  |
| Encouraging the supply of healthy and quality products |  |  |  |  |
| Contributing to a high level of environmental protection across the EU | X |  |  |  |
| Mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change | X |  |  |  |
| Developing rural areas while taking care of the countryside | X |  |  |  |
| Achieving a balanced territorial development |  |  |  |  |

**D. AGRICULTURE, RURAL AREAS AND THE CAP TOMORROW**

**19. Do you agree with the following statements:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Largely agree* | *Partially agree* | *Partially disagree* | *Largely disagree* | *Don't know* |
| Farmers need direct income support |  | X |  |  |  |
| Other policies can have a strong impact on agricultural income (e.g. heritage/tax law, social and pension systems) |  | X |  |  |  |
| Agricultural policy should deliver more benefits for environment and climate change | X |  |  |  |  |
| Targeted investments to foster restructuring and innovation should be supported | X |  |  |  |  |
| Improving farmers' position in value chains (including addressing UTPs) |  |  | X |  |  |

**20. Do you think that the following actions under the CAP could improve the competitiveness of farmers?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Largely agree* | *Partially agree* | *Partially disagree* | *Largely disagree* | *Don't know* |
| Supporting the development of futures markets |  | X |  |  |  |
| Enhancing transparency in the agricultural markets |  | X |  |  |  |
| Supporting the integration of farmers in Producer Organisations |  | X |  |  |  |
| Support for Research & Innovation | X |  |  |  |  |
| Simplifying administrative procedures |  | X |  |  |  |

**21. Which of the following criteria are most relevant when allocating direct support?**

*at most 5 choice(s)*

Specific products and/or sectors

Risk management tools

Compensation to farming activities in Areas with Natural Constraints/ High Nature Value Areas

X Territories with higher agricultural potential

X Practices with the highest environmental/climate benefits

X Linkage to standards (e.g. food safety, labour)

An equal level of support for farmers within the same territory

Small producers

Limit in support for large beneficiaries (capping)

X Young Farmers

**22. Which actions could further improve the EU export performance?**

*at most 3 choice(s)*

X Export promotion

Export credits

Specific action on Geographical Indications

X Further trade liberalisation

X Address non-tariff barriers

No action needed

**23. Considering consumer and wider societal demands, where can the linkage between CAP and standards be improved?**

*at most 3 choice(s)*

Food safety standards

Human nutrition standards and guidelines

Standards for fair trade products

Standards for organic products

X Environmental and climate standards

Standards for the use of antimicrobials/pesticides

Animal and plant health standards

Animal welfare standards

Labour standards

**24. When it comes to meeting higher production standards, do you agree with the following statements?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Largely agree* | *Partially agree* | *Partially disagree* | *Largely disagree* | *Don't know* |
| Enhanced results can be achieved with financial incentives on a voluntary basis, without increasing mandatory levels |  |  |  |  | X |
| If mandatory levels are increased, farmers need support |  | X |  |  |  |
| Farmers have to respect stricter rules without specific financial support |  |  | X |  |  |
| Awareness campaigns are needed to raise the willingness of consumers to pay more for farmers' respect of stricter standards | X |  |  |  |  |

**25. For which of the following environmental protection objectives should the CAP do more?**

*at most 3 choice(s)*

Prevention and reduction of water pollution (pesticides, fertilisers)

X Sustainable use of water

Prevention of environmental risks such as floods

X Prevention of biodiversity loss

X Prevention and reduction of soil erosion

Avoiding soil salinization, compaction and desertification

Contribution to the Air Quality Plans

**26. Which are the most important objectives for the CAP to better address climate change?**

*at most 3 choice(s)*

X Reducing Green House Gas (GHG) emissions in the agricultural sector

Fostering carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry

X Improving climate change adaptation and enhancing the resilience of agriculture production systems

X Promoting afforestation and sustainable forest management

Providing sustainable renewable energy resources

Promoting research to address plant and animal diseases linked to climate change

Promoting diversification of farming systems

**27. In which of the following areas do you consider that the CAP should strengthen its support to sustainable forest management?**

*at most 3 choice(s)*

Answers to be left blank

Forest fire prevention and restoration

Mobilisation of forest biomass for the production of material and energy

Increase of the resilience and protection of forest ecosystems

Afforestation/reforestation

Prevention of natural disasters and catastrophic events in forests such as pests or storms

Agroforestry systems

**28. Where should the CAP improve its contribution for rural areas?**

*at most 5 choice(s)*

X Fostering innovation through knowledge transfer, advice and vocational training

X Taking care of local know-how and products in line with EU's diversity and providing the basis for EU quality products

Addressing local needs by supporting the provision of local infrastructure/services (e.g. health care, child care, transport)

Fostering the economic viability of agriculture throughout the EU, avoiding concentration of production and people in certain areas

Enhancing the interplay between local production and local markets

Enhancing quality of life and social inclusion of rural inhabitants

Strengthening governance and local development through bottom-up initiatives such as LEADER

Fostering rural tourism and recreation, including through the provision of landscapes benefits, cultural values and traditional local food

X Creating and maintaining jobs in rural areas, including in primary agricultural production

X Providing connectivity and digital solutions

Contributing to societal and cultural capital for rural areas to stay vital living spaces and to establishing mutually beneficial rural-urban linkages

X By helping SMEs to create jobs in rural areas

**29. How can the CAP better help young farmers or other young rural entrepreneurs?**

*at most 3 choice(s)*

X Supporting business start-up

Providing transitional top-up payments to young farmers

Improving access to financial instruments

Providing more support for investments

X Supporting knowledge transfer, advice and vocational training

Putting in place incentives to stimulate the cooperation between different generations

Incentivising the transfer of farms

X Supporting new forms of cooperation

**30. What would be the best way to encourage innovation?**

*at most 3 choice(s)*

X Support the engagement of farmers in innovative projects

Address the knowledge gap amongst farmers

X Support knowledge exchange through better access to advisory services, networking among farmers and demonstration farms

Improve the technical competence and impartiality of advisory services

Develop IT infrastructure for knowledge exchange

X Provide better access to finance / investment

**E. WRAP UP: MODERNISATION AND SIMPLIFICATION**

**31. Do you think the CAP could be simpler if:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Largely agree* | *Partially agree* | *Partially disagree* | *Largely disagree* | *Don't know* |
| Overlaps between Rural Development and other CAP Measures would be reduced |  |  |  |  | X |
| Databases and technologies (remote sensing, smart phones) were better used to reduce the incidence of farm inspections |  |  |  |  | X |
| E-government services were more extensively used |  |  |  |  | X |
| Lump-sum approaches were extended |  |  |  |  | X |
| More choice was given to farmers in terms of environmental measures |  |  |  |  | X |

**32. Do you have concrete ideas for simplifying the CAP and reducing the administrative burden for farmers, beneficiaries (or public administrations)? Please specify and explain the reasons behind your suggestions.**

*1500 character(s) maximum*

Answer to be left blank

**33. Do you have more ideas for modernising the CAP?**

*1500 character(s) maximum*

* The CAP should be more market-oriented, meaning also (further) help farmers address pressing social and environmental challenges, by encouraging the supply of safe and high quality raw materials which are produced in a more sustainable way;
* The CAP should foster greater resilience of farmers in the face of more frequent market, climate and health risks, while maintaining market-orientation. Several options could be explored, from farming practices to risk management tools which do not distort competition in the EU market and on dissemination of knowledge on different risk management strategies, including the use financial derivatives tools to hedge their risk;
* The CAP should reflect the urgency of addressing climate change and environment protection;
* The CAP should also focus more on financing and adopting new advanced technologies and digitalisation by farmers and agri-food SMEs to provide safe and high-quality raw materials, increase productivity, address market resilience and reduce the environmental impact.
* Investment in R&D and innovation, knowledge transfer and collaboration among all stakeholders (including the industry) should form the cornerstone to achieve this. The CAP has to provide the enabling framework, financial support and incentives;
* The CAP support should be better linked to clear and common objectives (targeted). All measure should be assessed against the stated objective for such a measure and its real effects (e.g. does greening achieve the expected environmental benefits? At the same time, is greening coherent with the objectives of the CAP?).

**34. Please feel free to upload a concise document (maximum 5 pages), such as a position paper. The maximal file size is 1MB.**

*Please note that the uploaded document will be published alongside your response to the questionnaire which is the essential input to this open public consultation. The document is optional complement and serves as additional background reading to better understand your position.*

Please see “FoodDrinkEurope priorities for modernising and simplifying the CAP”.