



Who will fix the broken CAP?

A recipe for a Living Land

CONFERENCE REPORT

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La Tricoterie, Brussels

#CAPrecipe

EUROPE'S LARGEST NETWORK
OF ENVIRONMENTAL CITIZENS
ORGANISATIONS



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The CAP is broken...

...but it's not too late to fix it!

With questions increasingly being asked about whether the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is good value for European taxpayers' money, on 11 May 2017 the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and BirdLife Europe brought together over 300 people in Brussels to discuss its relevance.

The conference also took place just days after the end of a Commission public consultation on the future of the CAP and before political talks on how much money will be allocated to farm policy under the next EU budget get underway.

Introduced in 1968 to feed Europe's population in the wake of World War Two, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is one of the EU's oldest policies; long synonymous with the European project itself. Today the policy still eats up almost 40% of the EU budget – more than 55 billion EUR – every year.

But is the CAP necessary for food security in Europe when it threatens Europe's very ability to produce the food it needs by supporting agricultural practices which undermine the natural resources farmers rely on? Is the policy helping farmers and rural communities meet the current challenges facing the sector? Should billions of Euros in EU taxpayers' money be handed

out in subsidies as part of a policy that mainly supports a socially and environmentally harmful model of farming based on overproduction?

These were just some of the questions put to farmers, policymakers and participants representing, consumers and the food sector - and those working to promote environmental protection, health, animal welfare, and development.

This report represents a summary of the presentations and panel discussions that took place. We hope that it informs the ongoing debate on the future direction of EU farm policy!

SESSION 1

THE CAP

NO LONGER FIT FOR PURPOSE?



WELCOME

Jeremy Wates

EEB Secretary General

EEB Secretary General Jeremy Wates kicked off the conference by outlining the EEB and BirdLife Europe's ongoing campaign for a new EU policy framework that is fair for both farmers and the taxpayer, is environmentally sustainable, healthy, and globally responsible.

Wates highlighted that the conference is particularly timely, coming hot on the heels of the European Commission's public consultation on the future of the CAP which ran from 2 February to 2 May 2017. Over a quarter of a million people across Europe and 600 civil society organisations and businesses used the public consultation to make their voices heard, calling for the EU's farm spending scheme to better protect our climate and environment, be fairer to farmers and consumers, to contribute to healthy and sustainable food production, and protect animal welfare. These consultation responses were gathered through [Living Land](#), an online campaign platform set up by the EEB, BirdLife Europe, and WWF.

"The extraordinary level of participation in this public consultation shows that this process was much-needed," said Jeremy Wates.

A better way?

Jeremy Wates said that it was crucial to find a better way to ensure that farming can produce the food we eat while preserving the diversity of cultural landscapes and ecosystems, as well as the character of rural areas.

"Over recent decades, pushes for high production and intensification often at the expense of quality have led to enormous impacts on society primarily because of the external environmental and social

costs that are not included in the final price," he said. "Mass production of cheap food across the EU has driven the destruction of our natural resources, endangering the future of our food chain and threatening Europe's very ability to produce the food and the resources it needs."

Wates acknowledged that there had been past gains in higher production yields but that these have now been cancelled out by what he describes as "their staggering environmental price tag". He cited the rate of soil loss as a particular cause for concern.

In the United Kingdom it is estimated that there are just 100 harvests left if soil use continues at today's levels. Wildlife is on the decline too, and our freshwater resources are being polluted by excess use of fertilisers and pesticides. The air we breathe is polluted with unhealthy levels of ammonia, fine dust and methane from animal manure and synthetic fertilisers.

Wates also emphasised that while farming is one of the sectors most vulnerable to climate change, the ways in which current farming practices are also exacerbating climate change have not yet been sufficiently tackled.

"While some farmers have heavily indebted themselves to expand their production capacity in an attempt to be competitive, others are being driven out of farming as they become increasingly unable to make a living from their produce," he said.



Green on paper, grey in our fields

The last CAP reform in 2013 was meant to make the CAP greener and ensure that 'measures securing the sustainable management of natural resources' would receive public money. However, Wates outlined that attempts at real reform were thwarted during the co-decision process that ended up securing business as usual instead of real changes in our fields.

To show the real impact of this so-called 'greening' exercise, the EEB and BirdLife Europe have tried to collect as much data as possible on how CAP greening is being implemented.

"The research gathered paints a picture of a policy which is only green on paper and fails to deliver in reality. This suggests that the CAP is having a negative impact on the environment, farm livelihoods, and public health," Wates said.

Given this mounting evidence, the EEB and BirdLife Europe have also called on the Commission to urgently conduct an in-depth evaluation of the CAP through a 'Fitness Check' to find out the full extent of the policy's impact. This call was signed by over 200 organisations and echoed by MEPs and scientists as well as the Senior Adviser for Sustainable Development of President Juncker's European Political Strategy Centre. The REFIT Stakeholder Platform also unanimously called for a Fitness Check of the CAP, a call which unfortunately was not echoed by the Member States platform.

The Commission has so far refused to carry out a Fitness Check, which Wates describes as "regrettable".

Wates said: "While we welcome the Commission's current reform process and the public consultation, this falls short of a proper Fitness Check. Quite simply, we believe that the CAP should be held up to the same level of scrutiny as the Birds and Habitats

Directives were last year when they were the subject of a Fitness Check."

It was this absence of action from the EU executive that inspired the EEB and BirdLife Europe to commission their own 'Fitness Check' study which follows as closely as possible the official Fitness Check methodology. The preliminary findings show that the policy is inefficient, unsustainable and poorly accepted by both farmers and society. (see page 10)

"We hope that the Commission will take heed of the results of this study when it is preparing its forthcoming Communication on modernising and simplifying the CAP," added Wates. "The results show that we must not focus on simplification to the detriment of the environment."

A complete overhaul

Summing up, Jeremy Wates repeated his call for the next CAP to be fair, environmentally sustainable, healthy, and globally responsible and he reiterated that this is what 600 hundred organisations and businesses and 250,000 citizens want.

He also said that we need to be imaginative and think about moving away from the current two-pillar CAP structure and completely overhaul the policy's architecture. Wates would like to see "the inclusion of the polluter pays principle as the basis for payments, money dedicated for nature and ecosystem services, the inclusion of food in the policy's spectrum and a fundamental change in the governance around the policy making process to reflect the variety of interests around the CAP and ensure a central role for environmental authorities at all levels."

But above all, Wates said that a "new contract between farmers and society" will be vital for Europe to build the truly sustainable food and farming system it so desperately needs.

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Phil Hogan

European Commissioner

Agriculture and Rural Development



While the title of the conference itself makes the assertion that the CAP is “broken”, Commissioner Phil Hogan said that he prefers to describe the policy as “cracked”.

“If the CAP was truly broken then there would be hardly any remaining political support for it. The CAP is one of the true success stories of European integration,” he said. “It has delivered real and lasting benefits for Europe, which was a broken continent 70 years ago; it is now a strong, confident world leader, and the CAP made an important contribution to this development.”

He cited food security, the highest global standards for safe and quality food, minimum standards for the environment, sustainable rural development, and modernisation of European agricultural practices as some examples which demonstrate the policy’s achievements.

However, he said that “we must always strive to do more” and that “the CAP needs to step up to the plate and help to deliver on our ambitious international agreements, such as the SDGs and the Paris agreement on climate change”. To make this happen he said we need to “mandate our farmers to perform a variety of important tasks for the benefit of our society, and our planet” and put “more conditions on what we expect from farmers who receive public money”.

Bringing environmental preservation & production together

Hogan said that while the policy should have producing “healthy, safe and quality food” that is “sufficiently available for everybody” in a “sustainable way” at its heart, in his view there should be “no talk about less or reduced production”, particularly given the rising world population and a higher demand for primary products for the bio-economy.

Marrying the productive aspect of the policy with the need for environmental preservation was therefore a key challenge, the Commissioner added. He said that in his view the solutions lie in precision farming, better education and training, resource efficient machinery and new models for recycling.

The Commissioner highlighted that farmers across Europe who receive CAP money to improve nature on modest areas of their land should no longer be able to spray pesticides on these areas (so-called ‘Ecological Focus Areas’ (EFAs)) as a result of a ban he proposed. Hogan said that this EFA pesticide ban proposal was a good test of political will to see where MEPs and EU governments stand on biodiversity protection before political negotiations on the next CAP begin. (The ban was subsequently rubber-stamped by the European Parliament on 14 June – despite an attempt from MEPs on the agriculture committee to reject it at all costs and with many MEPs opposed to it.)

Hogan conceded that the current CAP had fallen short of expectations when it comes to biodiversity protection.

Cooperation across Commission services

Hogan used his keynote speech to announce a new Task Force on Water to develop a “long-term alliance between different Commission services” to work on “sustainable water management for EU agriculture”.

“We know that water is one of our most precious resources. But we also know that farming and food production are water-intensive industries while the demand for more and better food is rising,” he said. “We are working towards a better implementation of the current water legislation, better investments in water infrastructure as well as the spreading of knowledge in order to improve the sustainable use of water in agriculture.”

Hogan said he would be working directly with Environment Commissioner Vella on the Task Force in recognition of the fact that “policy initiatives cannot work in isolation to address an issue as fundamental as water”.

Responding to a question about whether the CAP was coherent with other policies, the Commissioner said that on issues such as food waste, circular and bio economy, he will also try to work closer with the other relevant Commissioners.

Where from here?

Hogan expressed the Commission’s “delight” at receiving such a large number and variety of submissions to its public consultation on the future of the CAP. He said the findings will be built into the forthcoming Communication on the modernisation and simplification of the CAP.

“The CAP is a living policy which has a direct and measurable impact on all the citizens of Europe,” he added. “I am confident that by working closely with

all stakeholders and decision-makers, we can arrive at a Communication that elaborates a pathway towards a CAP truly fit for the 21st century.

“We can only achieve our environmental and climate targets if we work together with farmers and get their full buy-in, because any implementation measures without farmers as the central actors will simply not work. Most of the appropriate solutions need to be locally adapted. Local strategies and local solutions are necessary for achieving European objectives. Innovation and knowledge transfer will be crucially important in order to square the circle and enhance production while safeguarding our natural resources. And we need a good planning process in order to use tax-payers’ money in the most efficient way.”

And on the key issue of why the Commission did not carry out a CAP Fitness Check, Hogan reminded participants that it was the Member States that had decided not to do one. To this end he called on NGOs to be active at both the European and Member State level.

EEB and BirdLife Europe present Commissioner Hogan with the logos of the 600 organisations which backed the Living Land campaign on behalf of the coalition.





IS THE CAP FIT FOR PURPOSE?

A rapid assessment of the evidence

A team of researchers has begun an analysis of the available knowledge on the CAP.

The two lead researchers Dr. Guy Pe'er (German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig and Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ) and Dr. Sebastian Lakner (University of Göttingen, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development) presented their preliminary findings at the conference.

The EEB and BirdLife Europe commissioned the study after repeated demands from a broad section of civil society, businesses, scientists, and MEPs for the European Commission to kick-start a much-needed full review of the CAP fell on deaf ears.

In the absence of action from the Commission, this rapid evidence assessment which uses the EU's own 'Fitness Check' criteria is an attempt to fill the gap. Over six weeks, 600 relevant publications from 26 member states were identified as relevant and so far 275 of these have been analysed and inserted into a detailed database summarising key findings.

The initial findings show that while there is a vast amount of available knowledge on the CAP's impact on our society, economy and especially on the environment, this is not taken up in the policy's design and implementation, leaving it inefficient, unsustainable and poorly accepted by both farmers and society.

The researchers say that the vast amounts of knowledge and experience already available on the CAP's impacts must be considered and used to develop a simpler, smarter and more modern CAP. They call for an evidence-based assessment and an inclusive process.

Key preliminary findings

- Mixed effects in terms of the CAP's effectiveness on environmental protection – local successes do exist, but large-scale degradation and biodiversity decline continue.
- While direct payments do contribute to farm incomes and profits, they have a mixed effect on productivity and tend to reduce farm efficiency.
- The CAP is not yet capable of supporting the relevant Sustainable Development Goals that the European Union endorsed as its guiding principles.

> Download the presentation

> Download the Preliminary Summary of Key Outcomes (full report will be published in autumn 2017)

> Access the Database



CIVIL SOCIETY PRESENTATIONS



Thierry Kesteloot



Geneviève Savigny



Olga Kikou



Dr. Ignas Van Bebber



Trees Robijns

'Feeding the world' is often used as justification for increasing food production in Europe and indeed the EU is both one of the biggest exporters and importers of agricultural products to and from developing countries. But as **Thierry Kesteloot (OXFAM)** points out, with so many EU farmers exporting surplus products to third countries it means that the CAP is essentially funding an increase in competitiveness in international markets.

"The EU's current food and farming system is not fit for purpose because it is dependent on the developing world, has a large carbon footprint, and is not environmentally sustainable," Kesteloot said. "This situation strengthens land grabbing and does not address the problems of power concentration."

Geneviève Savigny, a farmer from Coordination Européenne Via Campesina (ECVC), highlighted the importance of subsidies for farmers' incomes. She said that simply removing subsidies without ensuring other sources of income was not an option. To this end, Savigny said that in the future the CAP taking measures to "stabilise prices" will be essential. She called for better representation for smaller farms.

Olga Kikou from Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) said that the CAP has driven food insecurity through the intensification of animal production and the overconsumption of animal products. She highlighted that industrial animal agriculture requires large amounts of feed because animals convert feed very inefficiently. Growing more grain to produce animal feed requires ever larger amounts of arable land which means more deforestation, land degradation, wasteful use of resources, significant water and air pollution, use of antibiotics, and serious issues regarding animal welfare.

Kikou also outlined how animal welfare is not adequately addressed in the CAP: "Animal welfare measures are voluntary and only half of member states have included some animal welfare payments in their measures. In total, only 0.5 % of the CAP budget is allocated to

animal welfare." She added that "intensive farming lies at the heart of many of the issues that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to solve."

And intensive livestock farming is also bad for human health, as **Dr. Ignas Van Bebber** (Surgical Oncologist) explained. "Ammonia, methane, nitrogen, nitrate and phosphate are emitted more due to intensive livestock farming and can cause serious health problems. Also, the antibiotics that are given to livestock leak into the environment and human resistance to antibiotics has become a huge issue."

Van Bebber highlighted that in the Netherlands there are 2.5 million people yet 35 million farm animals. He drew links between such high densities of livestock & lower life expectancy.

Trees Robijns (BirdLife Europe) said that agriculture is one of the main reasons behind the decline in farmland bird species, bees, and plants. She also highlighted the link between farming and the climate: "If we want to stay under 1.5 degrees we will have to do a lot more to halve agricultural emissions by 2050."

In a discussion about whether more money should be used to support extensive farming methods, the German Farmers Association raised the issue of potential risks associated with extensive farming in terms of the EU becoming more reliant on imports. In response, Trees Robijns said that extensive farming was not about producing less food rather it is about using less inputs which have a negative impact on biodiversity - and in turn farmers' long-term ability to produce food.

Summing up the discussion, Trees Robijns (BirdLife Europe) said that it was important to highlight that the CAP is not just a technical issue that concerns a handful of people - it affects all of us. Thierry Kesteloot said that it was crucial not to have a repeat of the 2013 reform which just made very cosmetic changes. The challenge now is to bring the CAP in line with the SDGs and to have a truly radical transformation of our food and farming system.

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL REACTION

Daniel Calleja Crespo (Director-General for Environment) said that the upcoming CAP reform is an opportunity to bring the policy into line with the strong environmental commitments the EU has made, such as the recently-adopted EU Action Plan for Nature, the Sustainable Development Goals, the EU's 2030 agenda, and the Paris climate agreement. He said that the success of the CAP consultation process shows to what extent this discussion is important. He also cautioned that while we should learn from the last reform, the current political context is different as there is uncertainty over how the UK's departure from the EU will affect the future CAP budget.

From DG Environment's perspective, Calleja Crespo said that the key priorities are "increasing the CAP's coherence with other EU policies, making sure it contributes to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), making the policy simpler and clearer, and implementing agro-ecological solutions".

Prof. Dr. Beate Jessel (President of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation) highlighted the alarming decline of farmland biodiversity, such as pollinators, and farmland bird species. She also stressed that a lot of valuable farmland habitats have been lost in recent years and that there is a trend towards segregation. Jessel said that even if grassland loss has slowed down in Germany, agricultural intensification of remaining grassland is still on the rise which has resulted in a decline of grassland quality. She pointed out that although her agency proved these findings for Germany, similar trends are observed at European level.

Jessel highlighted research findings that show that the greening measures introduced to protect biodiversity at the last CAP reform have not resulted in a significant increase of valuable habitats. Jessel added that too many pesticides being sprayed on EFAs has been problematic.

She said: "It is evident that the current policy is not fit for purpose and must be made more effective for biodiversity. There is an urgent need to make adjustments to the greening rules during

this funding period. For the upcoming next period the CAP needs a paradigm shift to ensure that public money is spent on public goods. This will also be key for farmers so they can ensure their livelihood from sustainable farming and halting the loss of biodiversity."

However, for **Jorge Sainz Elliaz** (Spanish Permanent Representation to the EU) the current CAP greening measures have provided great environmental benefits. He said that, in his view, CAP greening achieved its goals and has had a positive impact in Spain. He said that crop diversification has led to more diversity, the EFAs have increased biodiversity, fertiliser use has decreased, and penalties for non-compliance have been applied. BirdLife Europe disputed Jorge Sainz Elliaz' assertions about the success of CAP greening as did Prof. Dr. Beate Jessel.

Frederik Langdal (Swedish Permanent Representation to the EU) said that from the Swedish perspective, the CAP was not completely broken but it needs to contribute more in the area of environmental sustainability (enhanced biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and a better framework for grasslands in Europe should be considered). He also said that the CAP needs to support innovation in the framework of rural development, in order to improve economic sustainability and quality of life. Langdal explained that the direct income support can be improved, by shifting the focus from Pillar 1 to Pillar 2 and abandoning inefficient instruments. For Langdal this improvement should be addressed in the next reform. He said the current greening of direct payments is complex, inefficient and costly and that the CAP should focus on sustainability and be brought in line with the SDGs.

Finally, the issue of governance was discussed. In response to a question on the need for more involvement from other Parliament committees and environmental authorities on CAP issues, Daniel Calleja Crespo said that he agreed it was very important to involve as many different views as possible from the beginning of the decision making process.



Daniel Calleja Crespo



Prof. Dr. Beate Jessel



Jorge Sainz Elliaz



Frederik Langdal

SESSION 2

INGREDIENTS FOR A LIVING LAND



Bernard Fournier

Maître Cuisinier de France

Euro-Toques international



Opening the second part of the conference which focused on what solutions are needed for the next CAP, top French chef Bernard Fournier said that what was most important was preserving “seasonality and quality taste so they can be enjoyed by future generations too”.

Bernard Fournier represents Euro-Toques, a network of 3000 chefs which campaigns for the safeguarding and the promotion of quality food products. Created in 1986 by Paul Bocuse, Euro-Toques defends food quality and fresh and seasonal products, ‘savoir-faire’, and guaranteeing healthy food for consumers.

Bernard Fournier, together with 4000 other French chefs and 6000 French producers, has called on the French Ministry of Agriculture and Food to stop the merger between Bayer and Monsanto, as they believe that this enormous company has only one goal: to control the whole

food chain, from the land to the plate, to the detriment of biodiversity and public health.

Bernard Fournier said it was important that production respects the environment by using fewer pesticides. In particular, Bernard Fournier expressed his opposition to the glyphosate-based pesticide ‘Roundup’ and products which contain neonicotinoids, as they all affect agricultural diversity.

He outlined that consumers have a right to transparency and that he wants “seasonality and quality taste to be enjoyed by future generations too”.

Bernard Fournier said the CAP needs to have sufficient resources, and be simpler and more modern in order to guarantee healthy food and high quality products to consumers.

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION

For **Jean-Paul Denanot MEP**, the CAP is an important guarantor of food security. However, he said that the CAP does have plenty of shortcomings and that it needs to work better to protect the interests of farmers, regions, and consumers.

He said: "Farmers are at the forefront of the impact of climate change and price volatility. The EU must help them to stabilise their income. To help boost employment in rural communities, we need to rebalance food production between different countries and promote extensive agriculture over intensive agriculture. Consumers have the right to transparency and quality and to this end pesticides such as glyphosate must be banned."

Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy MEP also said that the last CAP reform has failed farmers as they struggle to earn a decent income and are very dependent on EU money. "No one is happy with the current CAP, there are almost no winners," he said. "A radical reform is needed."

Gerbrandy added that agriculture is one of the main reasons for biodiversity loss. "The last CAP reform was supposed to make the CAP greener but it actually became less green," he said. He said that radically changing how we produce food does not necessarily mean reducing production levels. He said it is about "producing better in a more responsible way". Gerbrandy wants to encourage and develop sustainable

farming, which is coherent with the demands of consumers. The Dutch MEP also said that farmers are trapped in a cycle of pesticide dependence.

Vanessa Cuevas Rubio, Committee of the Regions representative for the French Occitanie region, said that it is important to bring food and agriculture policy together at the next CAP reform. She said that the Common Agricultural Policy should become a 'Common Food and Agriculture Policy'. While the Commission's stated aim for the CAP is for it to be 'simpler, clever and modern', Rubio said that for the Committee of the Regions' rapporteur on the CAP, Guillaume Cros, the CAP's principles should be based on "fairness, sustainability, and solidarity". Rubio also highlighted Cros' proposal to end the payments per hectare as it is unfair. Rather, we should have an asset-based payment system, she said.

Rubio said that if Guillaume Cros' report on the future of the CAP is adopted it could help influence decision makers in the European Parliament. Gerbrandy said that the Agriculture and Environment committees should have shared competence of the policy. In light of the forthcoming talks on the next EU budget, Gerbrandy said we should not talk about amounts and figures before we have discussed the political question: what kind CAP do we want?

All three speakers are in favour of banning the use of pesticides on Ecological Focus Areas.



Jean-Paul Denanot



Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy



Vanessa Cuevas Rubio



HOW TO FIX THE CAP

FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM FARMERS



Alex Datema (Dutch livestock farmer & Chairman of BoerenNatuur.nl) agrees with the Commissioner that the CAP is not totally broken. As a farmer he is proud of what has been achieved over the last 70 years, but he also believes we can do better for biodiversity, the

landscape and our environment.

Datema said that a change in mindset is crucial. Instead of a farm being viewed as an ecosystem owned by the farmer who can run it as they see fit, a farm should be viewed as part of larger ecosystem.

Datema added that paying farmers for what they deliver is essential, and that the CAP needs to support a different farming model.

Olivier Mehuys (Livestock farmer, Producer at Efarmz) said that he moved from indoor meat production to producing meat from local breeds that graze outside. Therefore he produces less meat than before but sells it at a higher price. He sells his produce online, through a butcher, via restaurants and through the producers' network E-farms.

Mehuys called for independent advice for farmers. "EU subsidies should be linked to activities that promote reaching more diverse and healthy soils and less pesticide use," he added. "Nature and agriculture must work together."

As a young farmer, he said farming should be less capital intensive to make it easier to start a farming business. It should be easier to access land.

Kurt Sannen, an organic livestock farmer (Bioforum Vlaanderen, IFOAM EU) said that without the CAP he wouldn't be a farmer anymore. However, he highlighted that at a certain point in order to receive more money he was always asked to produce and grow more in exchange.

"The CAP must change because it is good for agri-industrial companies but not for organic farmers," he said. "The CAP needs a single pillar structure and has to stimulate a new way of farming; it should provide incentives for all farmers to produce public goods for public money, to make sure that farm practices are good for the environment and the climate. We need support measures, we need advice about how we can change our farms to the new ways of farming and organic farming is an inspiring way of how we can realise these goals."

Sannen also called for a new deal between farmers and EU citizens to make sure that citizens are happy with the CAP too.

An important point that came out of the discussion was from Olivier Mehuys who said it was crucial to engage with all farmers – including those that are not yet convince about the need to transition to a different model.



CIVIL SOCIETY PRESENTATIONS



Ursula Hudson

Ursula Hudson (President, Slow Food Germany) said that food production has an impact on all of us and that food and farming must be brought together under the same policy umbrella.

Hudson said: "We need an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable food policy that puts us on a path which is not based on competitiveness. We need to restore the value of food. We have to support local food producers and the farms where wildlife is protected and agro-ecological methods are used. It is also important to keep in mind that when we have agricultural diversity we automatically have diverse diets."



Nikolai Pushkarev

Nikolai Pushkarev (European Public Health Alliance) also highlighted the importance of diet, with bad diets being the single largest risk factor for all the healthy life years lost in the EU. He said: "The CAP cannot solve the question of how can we eat better on its own. We need to do something that covers the whole supply chain in a coherent way. The creation of food and drink environments that foster sustainable healthy diets should be a priority of the next CAP."

Pushkarev called for removing harmful subsidies and moving from hectare-based payments to performance-based payments.

Coherence is key for **Olivier De Schutter** (IPES food). He called for a food policy which is coherent with different policy sectors to allow for a shift in production methods towards agro-ecology, and for coherence between local initiatives and what happens at national and EU level. De Schutter also said that we need coherence between internal and external food policies in the EU as many developing countries depend on the cheap food Europe effectively dumps on their markets. Finally he called for coherence between the short-term and the long-term, meaning that although many are satisfied with the productive system we have today, in the long-term it is more harmful than helpful.



Olivier De Schutter



David Baldock



Faustine Bas-Defossez

De Schutter added: "The CAP's influence on the global south should be monitored to prevent the disappearance of small farms."

David Baldock (Institute for European Environmental Policy) highlighted the importance of being clear about what sustainable agriculture is and how it can be achieved in the future. "The SDGs provide some political input, but they are broad commitments," he said. "If we want specific change we need something more concrete."

"The state of the environment is quite alarming, health is at risk and the whole policy is very costly," said the EEB's Faustine Bas-Defossez. "Greening was meant to help, but it is not working. We need a complete rethink of the whole policy and a new contract between farmers and society. It's time to look at production as well as consumption and move away from the current CAP architecture. The future policy should be drafted and based on a Fitness Check exercise that is democratic and inclusive. An easy very first step is to stop harmful subsidies and focus only on practices that sustain natural resources." Above all, Bas-Defossez said, we need a change in governance of the CAP so that all the relevant authorities are involved in core aspects of decision making and at all levels.

Faustine Bas-Defossez said that cosmetic changes simply won't cut it and she called for a "revolution not an evolution".

She outlined the need to get rid of the two pillar structure and establish four new main instruments:

- > Ecosystems and Nature (a targeted system of payments);
- > Sustainable Rural Development to make rural areas rich in culture and nature alike;
- > Food (food stamps, healthy diets, education in schools);
- > Transition tool to help farmers become resilient, ecologically, economically and socially so they eventually have greater independence from public support.

CLOSING REMARKS

ARIEL BRUNNER, BIRDLIFE EUROPE



Ariel Brunner said that it was important to accept that there will never be agreement between all stakeholders on the next direction for the CAP. However, he said that compared to the last reform the evidence suggests that the Commission is more aware of environmental issues. He said that more and more people are coming round to the importance of concepts such as sound agronomy, sound farm management, sound nutrition, land management, biodiversity, and facing up to climate change. He also said that there is also an inevitability involved: the EU has signed up to the SDGs so it has no choice but to transform farming to be in line with these global sustainability goals.

Brunner added: "The reason why politics at both the EU and the national level is in crisis is because of politics' failure to reflect the real problems facing the world. We need to get out of the situation where a handful of people from the biggest farm unions decide how 40% of the EU budget is spent." Brunner said that listening to the

day's speakers, and in particular the farmers, gave us reason to be hopeful that there are people that want to do things differently. He said it now remains to be seen whether the future CAP will support these people or not so that they have the chance to act differently.

FOUR PRINCIPLES FOR A NEW EU FOOD AND FARM POLICY

FAIR for both farmers and the taxpayer. Those who deliver the public goods that markets do not provide should be able to receive public money.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE for clean air and water, healthy soil, and thriving plant and animal life, not least as part of the effort to combat climate change.

HEALTHY providing good food and contributing to the well-being of all people.

GLOBALLY RESPONSIBLE for the planet's climate and sustainable development around the world.

Speaker presentations available:

- > Olga Kikou, Compassion in World Farming (CiWF)
- > Dr. Ignas Van Bebber, Surgical Oncologist
- > Alex Datema, Dutch livestock farmer and Chairman of BoerenNatuur.nl
- > Olivier Mehuys, Livestock farmer, Producer at Efarmz





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