



**Friends of
the Earth
Europe**

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A new Food and Agriculture Policy for the European Union

Short position paper on the 2013 reform of the Common Agricultural Policy

Friends of the Earth Europe, June 2010

As the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development has identified, "business as usual is no longer an option". Climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation, a growing global population, food price volatility, demand for land for non-food production, consumer demand for fairer food, the loss of jobs in agriculture (6 million are predicted to disappear across Europe by 2014ⁱⁱ) and the loss of rural livelihoods reflect the need for change in the EU's food and agriculture policy. We also need to respond to new evidence about the environmental and social impacts of industrial agriculture, the impact of EU food consumption and production within but also outside of the EU.

Friends of the Earth Europe believes that fundamental reform of the CAP provides the opportunity to create a policy that ensures ecologically sustainable food production, supports rural livelihoods and ensures coherence with other EU policies. These include Europe's commitment on the Millennium Development goals to reduce world hunger, to reduce climate emissions from agriculture 10% by 2020, to conserve biodiversity, halt global deforestation maintain functioning ecosystems, improve water supplies by 2015, improve animal welfare and maintain jobs in Europe. Food and agriculture policy will play a key role in securing all these environmental and social benefits. But they cannot be secured by the market. That is why Friends of the Earth Europe believes there is a clear case for a new innovative contract between citizens and farmers and effective market regulation to ensure public support only for public goods within the framework of food sovereignty.

Objectives for a new EU food and agriculture policy

Within the EU

- Food security and healthy food including local/regional and seasonal products;
- Adaptation to new challenges, in particular, climate change;
- Improved biodiversity and landscape conservation;
- Water protection and efficient water management;
- Protection of grasslands, wetlands and moorland;
- Rural development and thriving rural farm economies;
- Higher standards of farm animal welfare;
- Increased consumption of healthy and regional produce;
- Measures to match sustainable production with sustainable demand

At the global level

- Minimised global environmental impact of EU food and farming sectors.
- Policy space and support for developing countries to enhance their capacity to produce sustainably to feed themselves and their regions. This will require the EU to stop dumping its exports and surplus production and work towards a ban against dumping at the global level.
- All countries, Europe included must be allowed to protect their own agricultural development by whatever instruments they consider suitable and not be forced to open up markets or reduce support for their farmers.
- Significantly increasing European self-sufficiency for vegetable proteins used for animal feed. This will also require effective regulations to reduce surplus production of milk and meat exports.

We will also need to implement of emergency measures to protect key public goods which may be lost in the years before full reform in 2013 e.g. permanent grasslands, small farming systems and high nature value areas, especially in Eastern Europe.

Instruments for a new Food and Agriculture Policy for the European Union

A Strong Legal Basis for a Common Food and Agriculture Policy

Minimum standards should be set for environmental protection for example:

- Compulsive rotations with a minimum of three different cultures and 20% protein crops including clover grass. This serves to protect the climate (humus balance), biodiversity, water, resources and increases the supply of home grown protein crops.
- Biodiversity preference on 10% of every farm area (no use of fertilizer or pesticides; saving or planting hedges, flower stripes, etc)ⁱⁱⁱ
- A complete halt to land use change of permanent grass land cover
- No use of genetically modified organisms
- Equalised nitrogen balance at a farm level
- Strict implementation of the polluter pays principle

Market regulation

Supply and demand management to ensure fair prices for farmers and sustainable production levels

- Regulation of retailer pricing and marketing policies and greater reference to competition policy to remove monopolies and ensure diversity in food retail.
- Ensure the inclusion of external costs of farming in Europe. Market measures should lead to a system with the best market options for products with the least resource use.
- Ensure consumer awareness and ability to choose healthy, sustainable and quality food^{iv} including with new food labelling. Meat and milk from industrial farming must become as easily identifiable as the eggs from caged hens are already.
- Improve public procurement. Existing programmes like the school milk and fruit programmes^v should be strongly supported and enlarged for healthy and sustainable produced food.

Targeted subsidies and support

- Higher incentives for the delivery of public goods, with a decrease in levels of member state co-financing and increased common funding where it creates benefits for the broader public
- Limits on payments per farm, reducing as size increases and labour decreases.
- Phasing out of direct and indirect export subsidies and any subsidies to food processing and export companies.
- Top-ups for organic farming, regional processing of organic food, direct marketing and craft processing. Support for home grown sustainable protein crops.
- Nature conservation payments for regions with very high nature value
- Support for sustainable protein crops
- Programmes for developing countries to build on existing farmer knowledge north and south, helping countries to comply with higher welfare, environmental, labour and food safety standards
- Phasing out of direct and indirect export subsidies and any subsidies to food processing and export companies.
- Farmers who do not achieve minimum standards don't receive funding
- Targeted support for remote and small farms to ensure their survival

Review of Europe's role as global trader and negotiator

A focus on promoting regional trade with all global agricultural trade based on needs of people and the environment.

ⁱ The IAASTD is the largest assessment of agricultural science ever done. It brought together 400 scientists, 60 Government and multilateral organisations such as the UN and World Bank. The report called for agro-ecological production and traditional knowledge. Its main findings can be viewed here – http://www.weltagrabericht.de/reports/NAE/NAE_32.html

ⁱⁱ COM 857 final, 21th December 2006, "Employment in rural areas: closing the jobs gap" {SEC(2006)1772}

ⁱⁱⁱ For an example of how this could work on regional level see http://www.umweltrat.de/cae/servlet/contentblob/910692/publicationFile/57130/2009_11_Statement14_Common_Agricultural_Policy.pdf

^{iv} DG Agriculture is already running such measures through paying for the school fruit scheme which aims to influence consumer demand.

^v For example: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets/fruitveg/sfs/index_en.htm