

Why do we need a CAP post-2020? What problems should it be designed to solve?

Samuel Féret, ARC2020 coordinator

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« Dear friends, we need to rethink
the agricultural policy », Plantu, Le Monde.

What's the ARC?

- ARC: not an organisation, it's a civil society platform facilitating a debate among NGOs for better food and farming EU policies
- Very active during the last CAP reform process 2010-2014: efficiency/reactivity in advocating, campaigning and communicating: more than 150 EU organisations and networks involved
- Initiators: Groupe de Bruges (EU think tank) and Forum Synergies (EU rural development network); actors involved: Friends of the Earth, PAN, IFOAM EU, Slow Food, European Milk Board, EPHA, APRODEV, National platforms...
- Ongoing internal talks: need to better address food and farming challenges with EU policies agenda and Commission/Council/Parliament context towards 2020

Why do we need (another new) CAP post-2020?

- EU Treaty: single market, financial solidarity and subsidiarity: every common policy shall be flexible: one size does not fit all
- Initial assumption: a common agricultural policy in the EU is more efficient, more effective and less costly than 28 agricultural policies
- Without CAP anymore, situation of EU farming sector would be much worse: far fewer farmers, much more commodities imports, less maintenance of the rural landscapes, abandonment of marginal rural areas, etc.
- Whether the CAP may appear to be „desperately needed“ for farmers, there's a longstanding hope and will to change the CAP, and that's what we try to do.

Guidance for the CAP post-2020

Six points divided into:

- 5 principles for supporting healthy farms, food and people
- 1 longstanding issue to address

1. Health centered food system



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- The driving principle of the CAP must be the relationship of food and ecologically sound agriculture to public health.
 - Improving the health of EU citizens must be a priority in developing policies, programs and funding.
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- > Level of food standards, impact of food on human health, food waste, access to food etc, are obviously items that refer to food security and food safety but that are not central to the CAP.
 - > Rather, half of those items are covered by national regulation (healthy diets) or by private competencies (food waste).
 - > Discuss the added value of an EU food policy

2. Agro-ecological practices



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- Urgent need to promote and scale up farming systems and agricultural techniques that prioritize the protection of the environment so that the soil, air and water will be able to continue producing food long into the future.
 - Agroecology as a mobilising concept to act vs climate change
- > Assess the environmental achievements of the « Greening » package
- > incremental improvement and integration of current mechanisms: cross compliance, greening; role of innovation and knowledge exchange

3. Community and regional prosperity and resilience



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- Enhance food security by strengthening the viability of small and medium-scale farms, and increasing appropriately scaled processing facilities, distribution networks, and direct marketing
 - Develop strategies that foster resilience, local innovation, and community development in both rural and urban economies.
 - Opportunities that create fair wage jobs are key to a strong economy.
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- > renewal of farmers' generations, young people
 - > access to land
 - > Pillar 2 design for real rural development

4. Ensuring a fairer trade and a better functioning of the food chain



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- So far new instruments introduced by the reformed CAP to improve the food chain functioning have not proven their adequacy nor their effectiveness (written contract, new rules devoted to Producer groups and Interbranch organisations)
- To manage/prevent price volatility, need to focus on “real” and solvable markets; the EU must stop to make new markets dangled that may become rapidly clogged (e.g. China).
 - > To prevent price volatility of Ag products, need to explore and expand some innovative interbranches arrangements on prices (i.e. lower but guaranteed prices for limited quantities, etc)
 - > Negotiate further exemption to the EU competition regulation for Ag products

EU subsidies: the big issue

- > Justification of basic payment entitlements : competitiveness, income?
- > Would countercyclic payments be a better solution than EU usual direct aids?
- > Can risk management instruments and insurances better address the low income of farmers better than systematic direct aid?
- > Keeping targeted payments for: LFAs, agrienvironmental services, etc



5. System approach to policymaking



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- Essential to reduce compartmentalization of policies and programs, and to approach policy decisions by assessing their impact on all aspects of the food system including production, processing, distribution, trade, consumption, etc.
- In that respect, we shall better consider and assess the move towards a Common Food Systems policy framework in the EU (JRC foresight on food, IPES Food proposal, etc.
- Reinforce the participation of citizens in policymaking; role of multi-actors platforms and new coalitions



J.-M. Lussan

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