

PRESS RELEASE

**THE FUTURE OF FOOD & FARMING IS FAIR AND GREEN: FOR A CAP & SUPPLY
CHAIN REWARDING SUSTAINABLE FARMERS**

VIENNA, AUSTRIA, 25 SEPTEMBER 2018 – Public money should be awarded to farmers that deliver public goods. This was the main idea that speakers at the 12th European Organic Congress conveyed to the 200 strong audience in the University of Vienna.

During the high-level plenary ‘Organic on every table - The future of food and farming, a transformative approach for the next Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)’, the participants¹ focused on the key elements of the revision and the importance to boost climate and environmental ambition. Jan Plagge, IFOAM EU President, accentuated the importance of delivering public money for public goods saying that “Member States will fail to deliver results adapted to national realities if the new CAP does not clearly prioritise a transition towards sustainable agriculture through ringfencing of money for 'Eco-schemes' and agri-environmental measures. Farmers can become eco-entrepreneurs if 70% of the CAP money would be guaranteed for the protection of the climate and the environment.”

The importance of transformation was equally reflected in the morning’s opening plenary ‘Fair Play and Fair Pay for a more sustainable European agricultural and food system’. Today organic farming is playing a leading role in making European farmers livelihoods more sustainable. But it is important to ban unfair trading practices and to set rules for fair trading practices across the whole food production chain, and it is equally important to set goals and follow progress to protect our water, soil, air and biodiversity.

Ends.

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IFOAM EU represents more than 200 member organisations in the EU-28, the EU accession countries and EFTA. Member organisations span the entire organic food chain and beyond: from farmers and processors organisations, retailers, certifiers, consultants, traders and researchers to environmental and consumer advocacy bodies

¹ The high-level plenary was attended by Herbert Dorfmann, Member of the European Parliament and rapporteur of the European Parliament’s report on the CAP, Tassos Haniotis, Director for Strategy, Simplification and Policy Analysis in Agriculture and Rural Development at the European Commission, Pekka Pesonen, Secretary General of Copa-Cogeca, Josef Plank, Secretary General of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism and Jan Plagge, President of IFOAM EU. Thomas Fertl, Board Member of IFOAM EU and Head of Agricultural Policy and International Affairs, Bio Austria, moderated the discussion