

PRESS RELEASE

ORGANIC MOVEMENT CALLS ON MEPs TO ALIGN THE CAP WITH THE GREEN DEAL AMBITIONS

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, 19 October 2020 – The organic food and farming movement calls on Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to raise the level of ambition of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform and ensure it will contribute to achieving the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies' objectives to reach sustainable food systems by 2030.

Jan Plagge, President of IFOAM Organics Europe cautions: "The moment to reverse the climate and biodiversity crises is now. Policymakers should seize this opportunity to acknowledge that public money should go to public goods. Maintaining seven years of the status quo in Europe's agricultural policy is not an option." He continued: "To protect our climate and environment, we need Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies' targets to be fully integrated into the CAP. The Commission's ambition of expanding organic farming to 25% of EU land is feasible with the right policies in place, and that includes increased support from the CAP for farmers who choose to adopt agroecological practices."

The compromise amendments agreed by the main political groups lack ambition and are disappointing. "Ringfencing 30% of first pillar money for Eco-schemes is a positive step, but it should not come at the price of sacrificing the budget for rural development agri-environmental measures in Pillar 2. Payments to areas of natural constraints (ANCs) should remain out of the ringfencing for environment in Pillar 2, like proposed by the European Commission", warned Kurt Sannen, Chair of the IFOAM OE Farmers Interest Group. "But MEPs still have a chance to ensure that the CAP will contribute to the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies' targets and that national CAP plans will include targets and adequate support to make Europe more organic!", he concluded.

The European organic movement calls on MEPs to vote in favour of the Environment Committee's amendments that have been re-tabled for the plenary, especially those on organic farming. According to IFOAM Organics Europe, Member States should include in their CAP Strategic Plans an analysis of the organic sector's production and set up a national target to increase the share of land under organic management, taking into account the EU objective and their national baseline. Moreover, organic conversion and maintenance payments should in no case be inferior to the current payments, which are already insufficient in many Member States to keep up with the existing rates of conversion to organic farming.

From Wednesday to Friday, MEPs will (virtually) vote on the future of our CAP. On 19 October, the Member States' Ministers of Agriculture are also expected to agree on a common position on the CAP.

Ends.

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IFOAM Organics Europe represents more than 200 member organisations in the EU-27, 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.

