

PRESS STATEMENT

PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS: A MODERNISED CAP NEEDS SUSTAINABILITY AT ITS HEART

BRUSSELS, 7 JULY 2017 – Today, the European Commission presented results of the public consultation on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) at “The CAP: Have your say” conference in Brussels (1). The consultation outcomes clearly show the necessity for a new deal between farmers and citizens that makes the CAP fit for purpose for the modern age by putting at its heart sustainability – covering all its dimensions – economic, social and environmental.

The next CAP reform is a huge opportunity to promote a full transition of the European agriculture towards sustainable farming. Farmers and EU citizens must work together to ensure fair farm incomes and the delivery of public goods demanded by society are not in conflict. IFOAM EU’s Vision Paper ‘A CAP for healthy farms, healthy people and healthy planet’ (2) offers solutions that can address these tensions and better use the CAP to confront the sustainability challenges facing the agri-food sector.

“The public consultation results underline the need for change in the approach towards the future CAP. The current EU agricultural policy has deprived many citizens from having access to good food, has caused a mass exodus of farmers from the land and has had a negative impact on the environment. We offer solutions that put public health, fair income for the farmers and environmental performance at the centre of the CAP, instead of focusing on commodity led production where small and medium sized farmers’ and citizens’ needs are neglected.” said Jan Plagge, IFOAM EU Vice President for Policy.

Despite the multitude of sustainability challenges acknowledged by both stakeholders and policymakers alike, many of the solutions proposed for the CAP Post-2020 demonstrate some appetite for change, but do not go far enough. Building on the calls for a more results orientated CAP that can deliver green jobs, biodiversity, soil and water quality amongst others (3), the European Commission needs to work with stakeholders to develop new instruments that can bring both the economic and ecological benefits. IFOAM EU calls for a new payment model that incentivises and rewards farmers who use public money for public benefit to ensure a win-win approach between producers and taxpayers.

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Notes for editors:

1. [Modernising and simplifying the CAP: Summary of the results of the public consultation](#)
2. [IFOAM EU Vision: A CAP for healthy farms, healthy people and healthy planet](#)
3. [Civil Society Statement on the Reform of European Agricultural Policies Good Food, Good Farming – Now!](#)

IFOAM EU represents more than 180 member organizations in the EU-28, the EU accession countries and EFTA. Member organizations 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.