

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

April 2018

Following a public consultation exercise on the modernisation and simplification of the current Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the European Commission published a communication on the 'future of food and farming' in November 2017. This sets out the common objectives of a future CAP along with the Commission's proposals for the shape of agricultural policy post-2020. These include greater simplification, the establishment of more ambitious environmental targets, a greater focus on results and a new delivery model involving increased subsidiarity, where Member States will establish CAP strategic plans. This short Topical Digest provides a quick source of references to a number of EP Thinktank publications relevant to discussions on the future of food and farming in the EU.

[Current priorities and challenges in EU agricultural policy](#)

Briefing by James McEldowney, June 2017

The European Commission's work programme for 2017 includes a commitment to consult widely on the simplification and modernisation of the common agricultural policy (CAP). A public consultation exercise was launched at the beginning of February 2017 and closed on 2 May 2017. A number of stakeholder organisations and think tanks have also published their reflections on the future shape of EU agricultural policy post-2020. In the last reform of the CAP, the European Parliament played a key role in this process.

[Foresight – contribution to the debate on the future of EU agricultural policy](#)

Briefing by James McEldowney, August 2017

Strategic foresight is increasingly being used as a technique to help organisations anticipate potential challenges or opportunities. This briefing examines its application to agricultural and rural development policies. A range of relevant foresight studies are identified and examined across a number of elements, covering: the identification of key drivers of change; the nature of the scenarios they present (including the role of technology and precision farming); food security; as well as the territorial dimensions relating to the future of Europe's rural areas.

[Urban agriculture in Europe: Patterns, challenges and policies](#)

In-Depth Analysis by James McEldowney, December 2017

It is estimated that by 2050, 67 % of the world's population will live in urban areas. Increasing concerns over food security coupled with issues linked to climate change have helped to promote interest in urban agriculture and the role it can play in respect of food security. This paper aims at providing an overview of urban agriculture by examining its relation to food security, the economy, social dimensions, and the environment.

[Research for the Committee on Agriculture & Rural Development – implications of 'Brexit' for the EU agri-food sector and the CAP: Budgetary, trade and institutional issues](#)

Study by the European Parliament Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies, November 2017

This reference document was prepared for a workshop on 'The implications of 'Brexit' for the EU agricultural sector and the CAP', held on 9 November 2017, and jointly organised by the Committee on Agriculture & Rural Development and the European Parliament Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies.

['Omnibus regulation' – agricultural provisions](#)

At a glance note by James McEldowney, December 2017

The proposed 'omnibus regulation' to amend EU financial rules represents the first occasion that changes to the basic regulations of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) have been formally proposed since the 2013 reform. These changes represent policy choices involving a fine-tuning and simplification of the CAP. Parliament is due to vote on the proposal during the December plenary session.

Further reading

[Organic farming legislation – revision of EU Regulation on organic production & labelling of organic products](#)

'EU Legislation in Progress' briefing by James McEldowney, March 2018

[Precision Agriculture and the Future of Farming in Europe](#)

Study by Scientific Foresight Unit (STOA), December 2016

[Precision agriculture in Europe: Legal, social and ethical considerations](#)

Study by Mihalis Kritikos, Scientific Foresight Unit (STOA), November 2017

[What if intensification of farming could enhance biodiversity?](#)

At a glance note by Lieve Van Woensel, Scientific Foresight Unit (STOA), November 2016

[What if animal farming were not so bad for the environment?](#)

At a glance note by Lieve Van Woensel, Scientific Foresight Unit (STOA), February 2017

[What if all our meat were grown in a lab?](#)

At a glance note by Christian Martin Kurrer, Scientific Foresight Unit (STOA), February 2017

[The EU olive and olive oil sector: Main features, challenges and prospects](#)

Briefing by Rachele Rossi, September 2017

[The sheep and goat sector in the EU: Main features, challenges and prospects](#)

Briefing by Rachele Rossi, September 2017

[The EU's beekeeping sector](#)

At a glance note by Rachele Rossi, October 2017

[Agricultural education and lifelong training in the EU](#)

Briefing by Marie-Laure Augère-Granier, October 2017

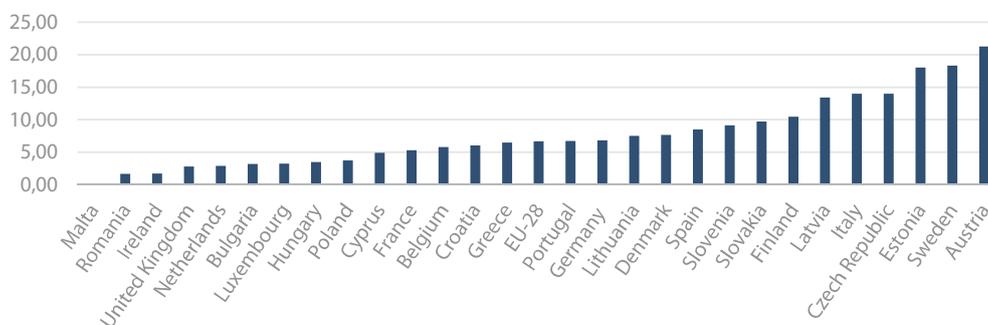
[Farm diversification in the EU](#)

Briefing by Marie-Laure Augère-Granier, April 2016

[Tackling food waste: The EU's contribution to a global issue](#)

Briefing by Ivana Katsarova, November 2016

Organic area as a % of utilised agricultural area by Member State 2016 – More in the [Graphics Warehouse](#)



Source: [Eurostat](#) (ilc_mdcs).

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http://www.europarl.europa.eu/EPRS/TD_Future_of_food_and_farming_FINAL.pdf

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