

## CAP strategic plans

The European Commission adopted three legislative proposals on the future of the common agricultural policy (CAP) on 1 June 2018. One of the three proposals includes a regulation on CAP strategic plans. While the CAP retains its two-pillar structure, (Pillar I, agricultural income and market support, Pillar II rural development), interventions under both will be combined in one strategic plan for all CAP expenditure. Each Member State will be required to develop a strategic plan, setting out their proposed interventions. The CAP proposals package is scheduled for debate and vote during the October II plenary session.

### Background

The EU's common agricultural policy (CAP) has been the subject of successive reforms since its inception. Following its last reform in 2013, the need to make the EU's agricultural policy more responsive to future challenges has continued. The Commission's 2017 work programme included provision for the [modernisation and simplification](#) of the CAP. Following a public consultation of a wide range of stakeholders, the Commission issued a [communication](#) on the future of food and farming. This was followed by the publication of the Commission's proposals on future policy.

### European Commission proposal

The Commission proposes that each Member State draws up a [CAP strategic plan](#), setting out how they will direct CAP funding towards specific targets and how these will contribute to the achievement of the CAP's three general and nine specific objectives. There is provision for an enhanced conditionality system; reflecting a higher ambition on environmental and climate action; better targeting of aid; greater flexibility for Member States; capping of direct payments; an eco-scheme; and enhanced measures for young farmers. A new performance-monitoring and evaluation framework with a common set of result indicators is also proposed. A new delivery model is included, to shift the focus from compliance to performance. The Commission's intention is that its proposals will enable the CAP to make a significant contribution to the [European Green Deal](#), including the [farm to fork](#) and [biodiversity](#) strategies.

### Council position

The CAP reform package has been discussed in Council. On 21 September 2020, an [exchange of views](#) focused on the CAP's green architecture, the future direct payments system and the new delivery model. The Council is scheduled to agree a general approach at its upcoming [meeting](#) on 20 October 2020.

### European Parliament position

On 2 April 2019, Parliament's Committee on Agriculture & Rural Development (AGRI) adopted a [report](#) on the proposal. In the context of the EU multiannual financial framework (2021-2027), Parliament has called for CAP financing levels to be maintained. In the absence of a plenary vote on the file during the last Parliament, political groups have worked further on the file with the intention of tabling amendments in plenary. Members are expected to debate and vote on the package during the October II plenary session, with a view to opening negotiations with the Council as soon as possible.

First-reading report: [2018/0216\(COD\)](#); Committee responsible: AGRI; Rapporteur: Peter Jahr (EPP, Germany). For further information see our 'EU Legislation in progress' [briefing](#).

