



2017/2088(INI)

18.12.2017

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

on the implementation of CAP young farmers' tools in the EU after the 2013 reform

(2017/2088(INI))

Rapporteur: Mairead McGuinness

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Believes that it is crucial for the EU farming sector to support a new generation of environmentally conscious young farmers in tackling the many challenges ahead, such as climate change, preserving natural resources (soil, water and air), increasing biodiversity and promoting sustainable agricultural production;
2. Highlights that current common agricultural policy (CAP) instruments for young farmers should be improved in the future; notes that these tools must be targeted to young farmers' specific needs, including their economic and social needs, and promote projects with the highest added value for farmers;
3. Stresses that generational renewal is key to maintaining vibrant rural areas across Europe that foster jobs and sustainable business activity; notes that this requires access to infrastructure and services, including healthcare, social services, education, transport and high-speed broadband;
4. Emphasises that young farmers must be trained and skilled to enable them to find the ever-more complex solutions required to face current and future environmental challenges, including the use of the latest technological developments in farming;
5. Highlights the importance of coherence between local, national and EU measures for young farmers; calls on Member States to facilitate generational renewal, including through inheritance and taxation laws, rules on access to land, territorial planning and farm succession strategies; notes that the current CAP payments system contributes to higher land rental costs and purchase prices;
6. Believes that any successful strategy for generational renewal and supporting young farmers should take a holistic approach, facilitating young farmers' access to land, finance, advisory services and training; stresses that this should make farming, which is vital for humanity, an attractive occupation to young farmers and wider society.