

Parliament of Finland: Future of the CAP post-2020

The Agriculture and Forestry Committee of the Parliament of Finland has issued several statements in which it has taken stance on the future of the CAP. The Grand Committee, which is responsible of EU affairs, has approved the statements of the Agriculture and Forestry Committee and has thus adopted the position of the Parliament of Finland concerning the future of the CAP post-2020.

In general, the Agriculture and Forestry Committee has held that the CAP and its implementation need to be simplified, resulting in the reduction of bureaucratic burden on farmers, removal of unnecessary regulation and reduction of obligations. Moreover, the future CAP should focus on the most important issues, such as competitiveness, growth and jobs, while respecting proportionality and subsidiarity. According to the Agriculture and Forestry Committee, it follows from subsidiarity that Member States shall have more to say in monitoring details.

The Agriculture and Forestry committee has also stated several times that the CAP should ensure that agricultural production remains possible everywhere in the EU, even in the most remote locations and locations with specific circumstances. Hence, the committee has argued that the CAP should take into account national special circumstances, including climate and geography.

Despite Brexit and its impact on the level of next MFF, the Agriculture and Forestry Committee has held in all of its statements that the financing level of the CAP shall not be reduced. In order to maintain predictability and sustainability of financing of the CAP, the Committee has stated that the period of the next MFF should be sufficient long. Furthermore, national agricultural financing should be possible also in the upcoming CAP. In line with its general approach to the CAP, the Agriculture and Forestry Committee has argued that the next MFF must ensure that agricultural production remains possible everywhere in Europe, even in remote locations or locations with specific circumstances.

The Agriculture and Forestry Committee has also issued statements on some specific proposals of the Commission that are connected to the CAP. Concerning Omnibus, the Agriculture and Forestry Committee has emphasised that monitoring has to be reduced and developed into a risk-based and cost-effective monitoring. Sanctions should only be possible for actions purposely undertaken against common rules. As for the new proposal for implementing regulation no. 809/2004, the Agriculture and Forestry Committee has held that the proposal will contribute to simplifying the implementation of the CAP, but argued that satellite-monitoring system shall not focus on detecting small deficiencies.

In November, the Grand Committee (EU affairs) issued a statement on future of the EU, in which it reaffirmed the above-mentioned positions of the Agriculture and Forestry Committee.

Links

Statements of the Agriculture and Forestry Committee (in Finnish):

Government's EU strategy 2017:

https://www.eduskunta.fi/FI/vaski/Lausunto/Sivut/MmVL_2+2017.aspx

Next MFF: https://www.eduskunta.fi/FI/vaski/Lausunto/Sivut/MmVL_18+2017.aspx

Next MFF: https://www.eduskunta.fi/FI/vaski/Lausunto/Sivut/MmVL_24+2017.aspx

Next MFF: https://www.eduskunta.fi/FI/vaski/Lausunto/Sivut/MmVL_28+2017.aspx

Omnibus and CAP: https://www.eduskunta.fi/FI/vaski/Lausunto/Sivut/MmVL_1+2017.aspx

New proposal for implementing regulation no. 809/2014:

https://www.eduskunta.fi/FI/vaski/Lausunto/Sivut/MmVL_25+2017.aspx

Statement of the Grand Committee on the future of the EU (in Finnish):

https://www.eduskunta.fi/FI/vaski/Lausunto/Sivut/SuVL_9+2017.aspx