



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2011/2051(INI)

13.4.2011

OPINION

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

for the Committee on Agriculture

on the CAP towards 2020 - meeting the food, natural resources and territorial
challenges of the future
(2011/2051(INI))

Rapporteur: Karin Kadenbach

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Points out that previous CAP reforms (the 1992 McSharry reform, the ‘Agenda 2000’ reform, the 2003 reform and the 2008 health check) were all aimed at ensuring that European farmers meet the highest standards in the world as far as environmental protection and animal welfare and traceability of foodstuffs are concerned; stresses in this connection that farmers are not compensated by the market for the costs entailed in meeting these standards;
2. Calls for the post-2013 CAP to secure the relevant funding, provide incentives and pursue a long-term food security objective designed to encourage sustainable agricultural production and consumption, save energy, promote efficient input use such as reducing harmful chemicals, better respect animal health and welfare and use the potential of ecosystems more effectively; points out that it must be capable of responding to environmental, health and social challenges, such as climate change, depletion of resources, water pollution and soil erosion and loss of biodiversity (including ‘agricultural biodiversity’) without compromising the viability of farms;
3. Calls for the EU agricultural budget in the next financing period to be modernised in line with the EU2020 goals;
4. Welcomes the Commission Communication’s focus on the delivery of environmental public goods through the greening of the CAP and its intention to re-integrate diversity in the farm sector, which will be a crucial opportunity to move towards a greener and more sustainable CAP;
5. Considers it necessary to strike the correct balance between the need for increased productivity requiring intensive production methods and the need for the conservation and sustainable use of resources, showing due regard for the environment, public health and animal welfare;
6. Believes that the current very intensive methods of animal production are often unsustainable and have negative impacts on animal health and welfare, which may also negatively impact public health and food safety; therefore calls for the CAP to promote livestock farming methods which respect the environment, as well as animal health and animal welfare;
7. Points out that, as the CAP has to be able to respond to a plethora of challenges concerning population, development, biodiversity, environment and scarcity of land, a new policy initiative has to be created, focusing on the creation of a common European food policy;

8. Points out that the CAP plays a crucial role both for farmers and the general public – who are both taxpayers and consumers – as everyone benefits from safe, nutritious and affordable food, a healthy environment, good health and job prospects, demand for high-quality products is increasing and environmentally-friendly practices are becoming more widespread;
9. Calls for CAP funding to be based on a model which rewards compliance with standards that are in many areas among the highest in the world and the provision of public goods which are not rewarded by the market. This model should include payments linked to natural handicaps, green-point payments, payments for vulnerable regions, including insular and mountainous regions, a solid and simplified cross compliance baseline for specific farming systems such as organic, High Nature Value farming, for extensively managed pasture and meadows, and for farmers with specific management requirements in Natura 2000 areas;
10. Is in favour of a territorial approach in the funding distribution mechanism which takes into account the wide range of locations in order to promote the sustainability of farms and of the areas concerned;
11. Requests that when CAP funding is allocated, other indicators, in addition to the cultivated area, should be used, such as the quality of production, the use of eco-compatible agricultural techniques, the location of farms in geographically disadvantaged areas and the presence of young people;
12. Calls for a reinforcement of the concept of funding for both pillars subject to the fulfilment of a number of environmental and biodiversity criteria, resource efficiency and public health objectives, so that high-quality food is produced using sustainable practices; points out that sufficient funding is the only guarantee of the success of targeted new and existing agri-environmental measures; points out that in order to hasten the shift towards wide scale organic farming, new financing mechanisms need to be created and calls for measures to strengthen the position of consumers and farmers in a better-functioning food chain;
13. Considers that CAP funding should not be reduced but, rather, modulated in order to boost the actual productivity of cultivated areas and achieve the objectives of protecting the ecosystem, biodiversity, the health of consumers and farmers and obtaining quality agricultural products;
14. Recognises that subsidy payments that promote unsustainable practices contradict the declared objectives of EU environment policy and calls for the payments regime to be adjusted to avoid such contradictions and promote good practice;
15. Is in favour of giving priority to supporting agricultural methods which help slow down climate change or which contribute to carbon sequestration in soil;
16. Stresses the services which European farmers provide to European society, in particular by maintaining a varied cultivated landscape and making an important contribution to the protection and stewardship of natural resources and to climate protection;

17. Stresses that the ‘greening’ of EU agricultural policy is, in reality, nothing new to farmers, as each successive reform has been geared towards strengthening this aspect of the CAP;
18. Emphasises that additional greening that respects ecosystems and product diversification, sound water management, low use of artificial fertilisers, good practices to reduce soil erosion and degradation and enhance soil fertility and measures to restore biodiversity will continue to benefit the environment, while ensuring a sustainable future for EU farming;
19. Emphasises that additional greening must be based on a win-win approach that brings benefits both for the environment and for farmers and society in terms of resource efficiency and increased productivity; also stresses that it is necessary to place the emphasis on research, innovation and new technology;
20. Points out that food prices paid by European citizens can constitute more than 50% of income, approximately 43 million people are at risk of food poverty in the EU and poor nutrition is one of the strongest detrimental determinants of health associated with lower socio-economic status, poverty and social exclusion;
21. Welcomes the Commission’s policy option, which would address the EU’s economic, environmental and social challenges and strengthen the contribution of agriculture and rural areas to the Europe 2020 objective of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth;
22. Believes that the CAP should support a move from intensive livestock production to more sustainable animal husbandry; therefore calls on the Commission to consider premiums for livestock farmers who use extensive grazing systems and grow their own feed;
23. Points out that the agricultural sector is only one of the sectors which contributes to the economic development of rural areas; calls, therefore, for a broader use of agricultural funds in order to combat the impoverishment of rural areas; points out that nature can also boost economic development, for instance by attracting tourism;
24. Calls for rural development funding to focus on new challenges, agro-ecological innovation, social and economic development including improved access to public services and infrastructure in rural regions, especially weaker or less favoured areas (LFA); this should include support for regional and local food systems as a strategy for inclusive growth and assistance for subsistence farming communities, recognising the contribution of such farming to local communities;
25. Considers that rural development measures must complement the good agricultural practices supported under the first pillar and promote practices which contribute consistently to the objectives of the fight against climate change and the sound management of natural resources, such as the protection of biodiversity, water and soil;
26. Emphasises the importance of the second pillar, in view of its environmental, modernisation and structural improvement achievements; calls for second-pillar measures to be better suited to their objectives, so that the effectiveness of growth, employment and climate measures and measures for the benefit of rural areas can be increased;
27. Deplores the fact that the EU’s biodiversity targets have yet to be met and expects the

CAP to contribute to efforts to achieve these and the Nagoya biodiversity targets;

28. Calls on the new CAP to promote the conservation of genetic diversity, comply with Directive 98/58/EC on Animal Welfare and abstain from funding the production of food from cloned animals, offspring or their descendants;
29. Stresses the importance of exploring all possible opportunities for cooperation between the Member States, involving all stakeholders, for the purposes of soil protection;
30. Emphasises that there is a great need for innovation and that investment should be channelled towards the growth of economical and environmental performance; calls for more EU-funded and EU-coordinated projects in which farmers and researchers can work together to find innovative methods throughout the food chain which will ensure a competitive and, at the same time, sustainable agricultural sector;
31. Stresses the importance of policies designed to encourage cross-border cooperation between Member States and third countries with a view to the adoption of practices to protect the environment and ensure the sustainability of natural resources in cases where farming activities, in particular the use of water, have cross-border implications;
32. Considers it possible to alleviate the climatic impact of agriculture through improved education and training for farmers in making better use of innovations resulting from research and development; urges that farmers be thoroughly prepared to meet energy challenges through the development of green energies such as biomass, biowaste, biogas, biofuels and small-scale wind, solar and hydroelectric energy generation, thereby creating new jobs;
33. Stresses the importance of control mechanisms for the purpose of ensuring that products are safe for people's health, which enable verification of traceability and safety and whether products banned in the EU have been used, with the same requirements applying both to Community products and products imported from third countries;
34. Considers that a simple and specific support scheme for small farms should replace the current regime in order to enhance their competitiveness and acknowledge their contribution to the vitality of rural areas and to environmental protection;
35. Wishes to highlight the special role played by organic farming, which studies have shown to make a significant contribution to climate protection as compared to conventional farming methods, and calls for organic farming to occupy a central place in the CAP in 2020;
36. Underlines the need to include resource efficiency considerations in the CAP through support for reprocessing of organic agricultural waste for soil fertilisation, as well as for the prevention of the dispersal of agricultural plastic waste;
37. Urges the Commission to further strengthen the current advisory system in order to help farmers with the implementation of the greening measures and with training in agro-ecological practices;

38. Underlines the importance of programmes to provide training for farmers to use more environmentally-sustainable farming methods and encourages the Commission to ensure that such programmes are financed by the second pillar of the new CAP;
39. Asserts that the insertion of cross compliance into the CAP in past reforms is a useful tool to achieve sustainability and that CAP payments cannot be justified without it, due to the demands of society for healthy food, farming and environment, but calls on the Commission to ensure the ecological effectiveness of cross compliance, so that it becomes a baseline for sustainability;
40. Is convinced that the CAP reform must ensure a more effective regulation of the nutrient loads into water bodies and allow the rehabilitation of marine and coastal ecosystems; considers, therefore, that decreased water pollution from agricultural sources should be added as one of the objectives of the CAP in order to maintain healthy rivers, lakes, seas, and groundwater across Europe;
41. Considers that the CAP should undergo a general environmental assessment, through which the key issues which need to be changed in order to protect bodies of water could be determined, including the role of excess phosphorous triggering eutrophication and increased susceptibility to eutrophication in aquatic ecosystems such as the Baltic;
42. Advocates the effective implementation of the Water Framework Directive action plans, in order to achieve effective water management and watershed protection at local, territorial and regional level ; considers it useful to integrate the WFD into cross compliance, and notes that this is consistent with the territorial approach to rural development advocated in the Commission communication;

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	12.4.2011
Result of final vote	+: 59 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	János Áder, Elena Oana Antonescu, Kriton Arsenis, Sophie Auconie, Paolo Bartolozzi, Sergio Berlato, Milan Cabrnock, Martin Callanan, Nessa Childers, Chris Davies, Esther de Lange, Anne Delvaux, Bas Eickhout, Elisabetta Gardini, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Julie Girling, Françoise Grossetête, Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines, Satu Hassi, Jolanta Emilia Hibner, Dan Jørgensen, Karin Kadenbach, Christa Klač, Holger Krahmer, Jo Leinen, Corinne Lepage, Peter Liese, Linda McAvan, Radvilė Morkūnaitė-Mikulėnienė, Miroslav Ouzký, Gilles Pargneaux, Antonyia Parvanova, Sirpa Pietikäinen, Mario Pirillo, Pavel Poc, Vittorio Prodi, Frédérique Ries, Oreste Rossi, Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, Daciana Octavia Sărbu, Horst Schnellhardt, Richard Seeber, Theodoros Skylakakis, Bogusław Sonik, Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu, Salvatore Tatarella, Åsa Westlund, Glenis Willmott, Sabine Wils
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Margrete Auken, Tadeusz Cymański, Matthias Groote, Riikka Manner, Miroslav Mikolášik, Bart Staes, Marianne Thyssen, Michail Tremopoulos, Anna Záborská
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Ashley Fox