

# Civil Society demands on the future Common Agricultural Policy

We urge MEPs to amend the following articles of the proposed regulation by the European Commission on establishing rules on support for strategic plans in the spirit of our five key demands.

- 1. Set clear and rigorous objectives holding Member States accountable:** make the specific objectives meaningful to properly address the current environmental and societal challenges, including negative impacts beyond Europe's borders

Article 6
- 2. Require MS to define targets in relation to the Impact Indicators** that reflect actual progress on the ground

Article 3, Article 7, Article 91, Article 92 and Article 97
- 3. Ring-fence 70% of the CAP budget for the specific objectives *d, e, f* and *i*, and 50% for environmental interventions**

Article 86
- 4. Ensure a new enhanced conditionality and its enforcement**

Article 11 and Article 12
- 5. Improve governance** and ensure the involvement of health and environmental authorities and civil society

Article 94 and Article 106





## 1. Set clear and rigorous objectives holding Member States accountable to properly address the current environmental and societal challenges

The CAP specific objectives should unambiguously guide the transition towards a truly sustainable European food and agricultural system and clearly signal the direction that Member States' CAP strategic plans need to take. The specific objectives should **hold Member States accountable** in addressing simultaneously environmental animal welfare and societal challenges, including negative impacts beyond Europe's borders. For this, objectives should be strongly worded and not refer to counterproductive solutions such as increasing efficiency at the expenses of natural resources or promote biofuels. Objectives should be set up on the basis of **a long-term perspective**, focusing on **initiating a transition** of the agricultural sector towards a truly **sustainable food system** and account for **all possible trade-offs** on both our society and **on third countries**.

## 2. Require MSs to define targets in relation to the Impact Indicators that reflect actual progress on the ground

The absence of quantified impact targets prevents any meaningful transition towards a performance-oriented CAP. The introduction of the three layers of indicators does not ensure that individual national priorities are aligned with EU priorities. Member States should instead be required to **set up targets at the level of 'Impact indicators'**, which would reflect **actual progress** happening on the ground, and which are set up in relation with existing European laws and commitments on health, environmental, animal welfare and social issues. Such an approach will allow the EC to identify gaps between individual national targets and EU priorities. Furthermore, the EC could enter in discussion with MSs to **raise those targets if individual contributions are judged insufficient** to reach EU commitments.

## 3. Ring-fence 70% of budget across the CAP for the specific objectives d), e), f) and i) and 50% to environmental interventions

Currently, the effectiveness of the foreseen environmental measures is limited due to their direct competition with basic income support. Member states are not likely to allocate a significant amount of funds to eco-schemes nor to further transfer funds from Pillar 1 to Pillar 2, since this might put their farmers at a competitive disadvantage. Therefore the European Parliament must **ring-fence 70% of the CAP budget to specific objectives d), e), f) and i)** including strengthening animal welfare, limiting antibiotic use and reducing pesticide dependency. **At least 50% of the CAP budget should be devoted to specific environmental interventions** such as eco-schemes, agri-environmental and climate measures, non-productive investments ensuring that they deliver concrete benefits.

#### **4. Ensure a new enhanced conditionality and its enforcement**

The new 'enhanced conditionality' must cover compliance with all relevant articles of EU environmental and public health protection laws, animal health and welfare laws, and address workers' rights. Only then can 'enhanced conditionality' be effective in reducing environmental damage, pesticide dependency, animal distress and ensure social fairness. Another important concern is the lack of enforcement. **The next CAP must therefore ensure the implementation of deterring penalty systems.**

#### **5. Improve governance and ensure the involvement of the correct competent authorities and civil society**

The European Parliament should **strengthen the partnership principle**. Stakeholder consultation must be legally binding, with clear minimum standards set at EU level. To ensure the involvement of the correct competent authorities, the designation of '**relevant bodies**' should be linked to specific objectives. Annexes of strategic plans should be **part of the overall approval system** and responses to the consultation and opinion from monitoring committees should be **publicly available**.