



# New opportunities for health in European food & agricultural policies

WEBINAR | 11 May | 14.00-15.30 CET



# New opportunities for health in European food & agricultural policies

Introduction and moderation by:  
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European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)



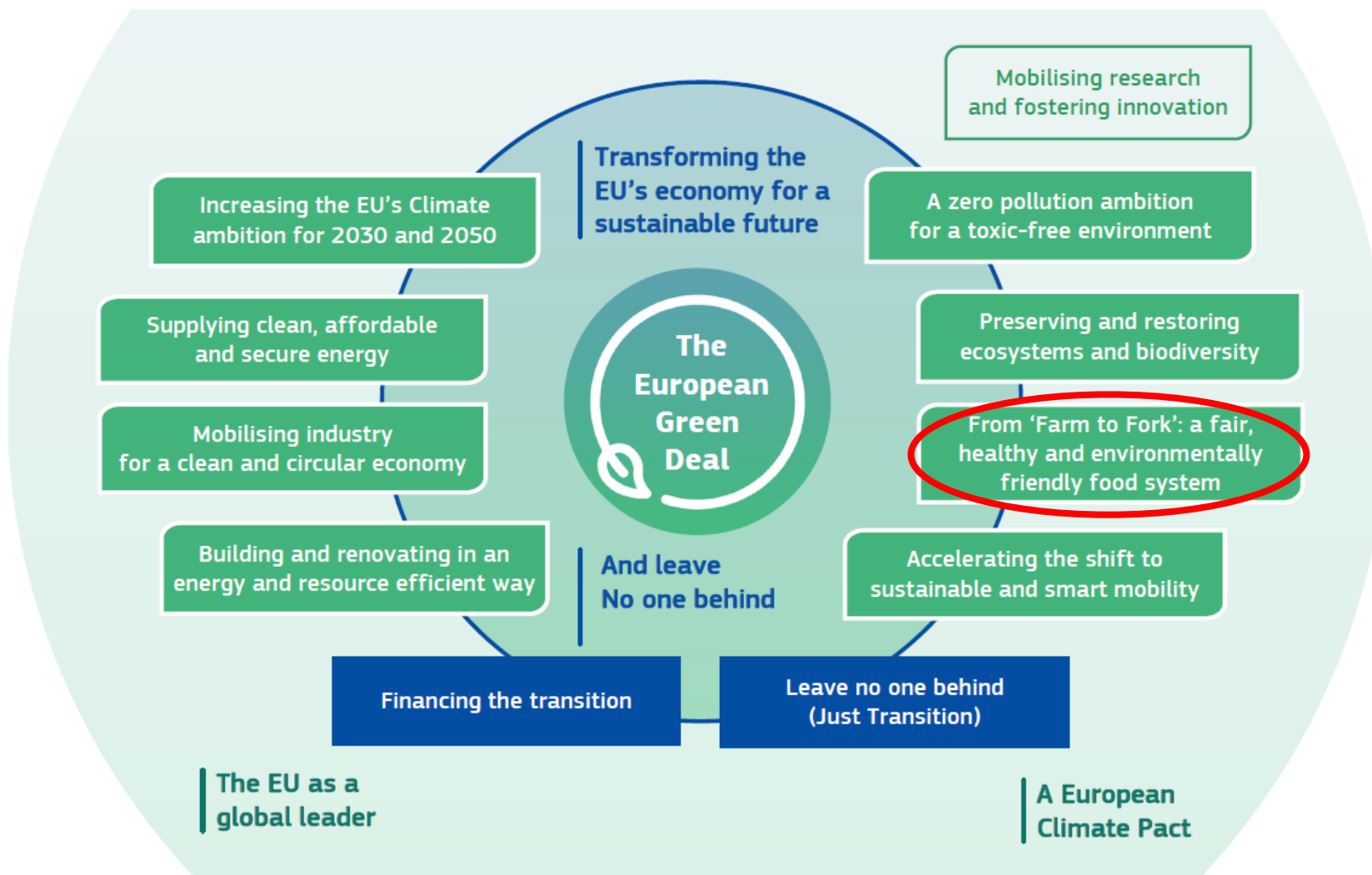


# *What is the 'Farm to Fork' Strategy for sustainable food systems?*

EPHA Webinar - 11 May 2020

*Rada CHEHLAROVA, Policy officer  
DG SANTE Unit E1*

# The European Green Deal



# Impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the 'Farm to Fork' Strategy

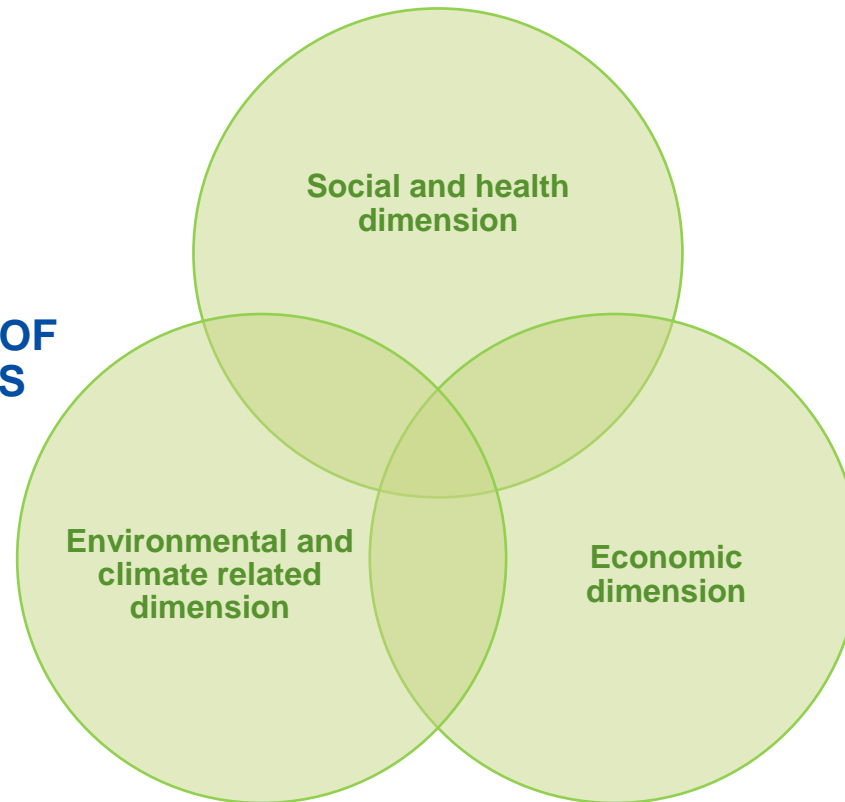
- Adoption date of the Strategy postponed due to the current crisis
- The current crisis shows:
  - The importance of a **robust** and **resilient food system** capable of ensuring access to a sufficient supply of affordable food for citizens.



- The importance of a **good health status** of people as the COVID-19 pandemic has been severely affecting people who have serious underlying medical conditions such as diabetes, serious heart conditions or severe obesity.

**Farm to Fork' strategy overall aim remains relevant in the current crisis as no food system can be resilient in the long term if it is unsustainable**

**THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**





# Stimulate sustainable production & consumption from 'Farm to Fork'

- Primary production (CAP, CFP, animal welfare, organic farming, pesticides, fertilisers, AMR, ...)
- Food processing, distribution, food services (packaging, transport, storage...)
- Consumers' empowerment (food information /awareness/ behavioural change/digital means...)
- Food loss and waste (prevention, valorisation)
- Combat food fraud
- International dimension (support global transition)

# Transition to Sustainable food systems - Horizontal enablers

- Role of research & innovation in driving the transition
- Role of advisory services to accelerate the transition
- Financial support to speed up investments and support actions
- Inclusivity /partnerships/ broad societal consensus in favour of sustainable food systems
- Cooperation across governance levels (Role of cities and rural/coastal communities) and policy areas



# Timeline

- **Targeted consultations – Q1 2020**
- **Feedback on the Roadmap** : 654 contributions received between 17 February and 20 March 2020
- **Report Group of Chief Scientific Advisors:**  
Towards a sustainable food system (March 2020)
- **Farm to Fork strategy** - Communication and action plan: planned to be adopted on 20 May 2020.
- From **May 2020 onwards**: elaboration of actions as included in the Farm to Fork action plan
- Further consultation on individual initiatives announced in the Action Plan

# Thank you



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Slide 03: visual on the left, source: Image by Wokandapix from Pixabay





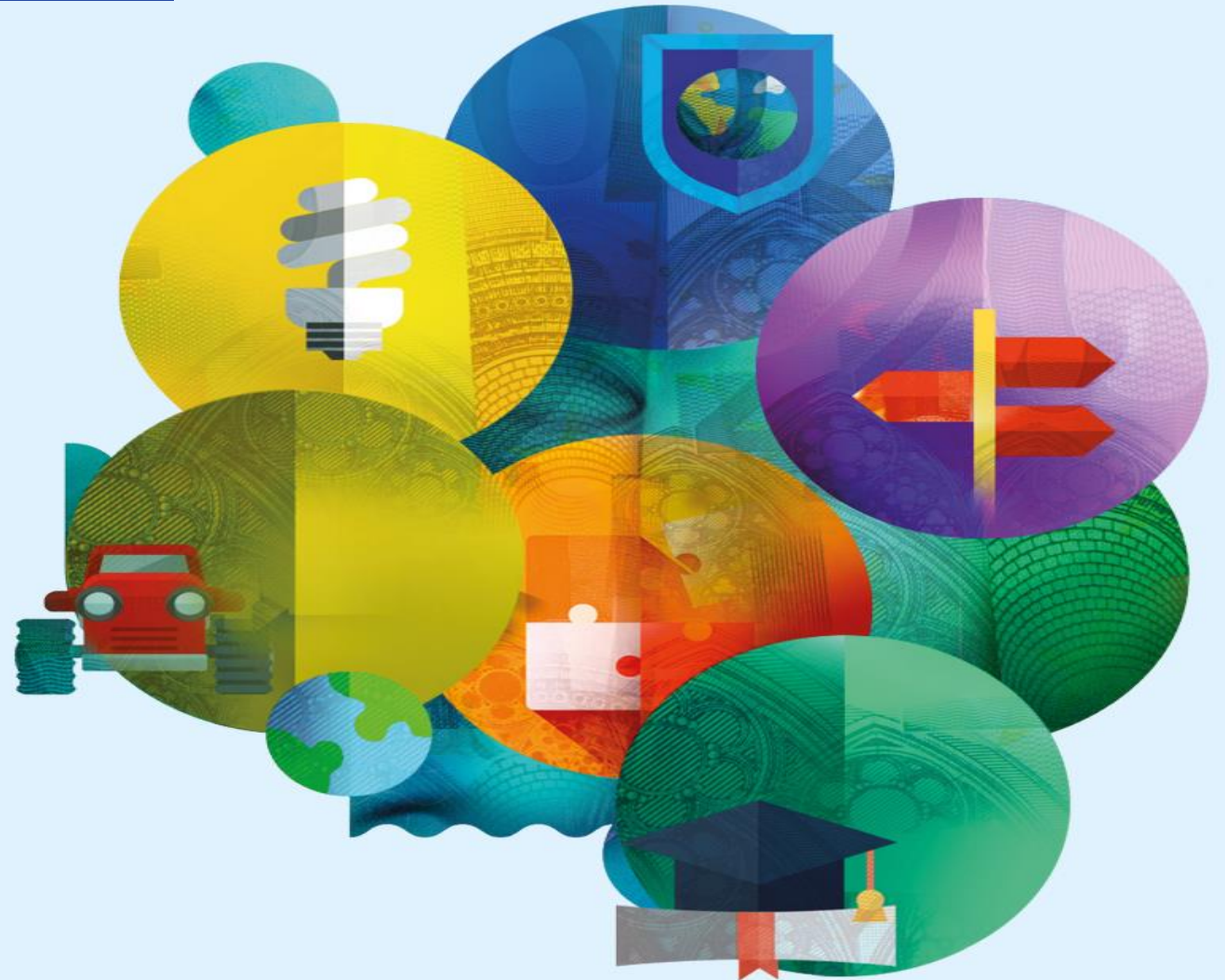
# New opportunities for health in European food & agricultural policies

Q&A

# What is new for health under the revised Common Agricultural Policy?

EPHA webinar

*Alisa Tiganj*  
*DG AGRI*





# OBJECTIVES

Commission political priorities  
Sustainable Development Goals  
Paris climate agreement

Art. 39 TFEU

## General Objectives

- Foster a smart, resilient and diversified agricultural sector ensuring food security;
- Bolster environmental care and climate action and to contribute to the environmental- and climate-related objectives of the Union;
- Strengthen the socio-economic fabric of rural areas

## Specific Objectives



- Support viable farm income and resilience across the Union to enhance food security
- Enhance market orientation and increase competitiveness, including greater focus on research, technology and digitalisation
- Improve the farmers' position in the value chain



- Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as sustainable energy
- Foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources e.g. water/soil/air
- Contribute to the protection of biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes



- Attract young farmers and facilitate business development in rural areas;
- Promote employment, growth, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including bio-economy and sustainable forestry;
- **Improve the response of EU agriculture to societal demands on food and health, including safe, nutritious and sustainable food, food waste, as well as animal welfare**

## Cross-Cutting Objectives



- Further improve sustainable development of farming, food and rural areas
- Ensure simplification and performance of CAP support
- Foster and share knowledge, innovation, digitalisation in agriculture and rural areas and encourage uptake



# REPLYING TO SOCIETAL DEMANDS ON FOOD AND HEALTH

- Specific objective concerning food and health, including safe, nutritious and sustainable food, food waste, as well as animal welfare.
- New objective for the operational programmes of F&V Producer Organisations: "increasing consumption", with a top-up
- EU school F&V and milk scheme is kept
- Enhanced conditionality (covering also food safety, animal and plant health and animal welfare) and Farm Advisory System (e.g. practices preventing the development of antimicrobial resistance).
- Payments for commitments beyond the minimum requirements available for fertiliser and plant protection products use, animal welfare, health and biosecurity; organic farming, participation in EU quality schemes, Farm Advisory.







# New opportunities for health in European food & agricultural policies

Q&A





**EUROPEAN  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
WEEK**

# IN-DEPTH: RAPID REVIEW OF PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE

Urška Erklavec

Food and Nutrition Section,

European Public Health Association (EUPHA)

**WEBINAR: NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR HEALTH IN EUROPEAN FOOD & AGRICULTURAL POLICIES**

**11 MAY 2020 | 14.00 - 15.30**

# Why this review?

- Agricultural policy has impact on several health outcomes like **antibiotic resistant infections**, health of **farm workers**, poor **air quality** and unhealthy **diets** which lead to several non-communicable diseases (respiratory, diabetes, heart disease)
- Messages of scientists and organisations to policy makers
- CAP post-2020 includes a **health specific objective** to improve the response of EU agriculture to societal demands on food and health, including safe, nutritious and sustainable food, food waste, as well as animal welfare
- CAP accounts for 34.5% of the 2020 EU budget (EUR 58.12 billion)
- EU **Farm to Fork Strategy** coming out on 20th May 2020
- More public health experts should take part **to make health a more visible and important objective**



# Pesticides and food safety

- **Pesticides:** reduce use and improve data collection to determine risk areas, groups, and factors
- **Food safety:** leverage audit and inspection information into corrective actions
- **AMR:** minimize need for therapeutic drugs, reserve certain antibiotics for human use and support farmers in adopting low-antibiotics farming methods
- transition plan towards a lower **livestock** product consumption (**GHG emissions and NH3 emissions**): economic incentives to reward the effective reductions with farming practices and interventions



# Livestock and AMR

- promote **food systems thinking** at all levels
- build **integrated food policies** under participatory governance
- **assess the impact of policy interventions on dietary changes** and consequent effects on public health
- More **horticulture support** based on the evidence of the advantages of consumers eating **more plant-based diets**
- EU should require Member States to develop **Healthy Diet Plans** (covering public procurement, urban planning, fiscal and social policies, marketing, and nutrition education) **as a condition for unlocking CAP payments**



- Europe as heaviest drinking region in the world. **Alcohol** is 5th leading cause of death and disability worldwide: **end support for wine promotion** measures and end its preferential treatment
- Agriculture specific **labour standards** should be built into the CAP (training for employees, payment of adequate wages, observance of health and safety standards)
- ensuring the progressive **capping of direct payments**, phasing out historical levels of support when calculating current payment levels, **supporting rural economic** opportunities for farm income diversification, supporting programmes to **improve access to healthcare and social** services in socio-economically underprivileged rural areas



- **Multi-disciplinary research, evidence-based policies, multi-dimensional evaluation frameworks** (e.g., Health Impact Assessments)
- Policy framework made with **mandatory involvement of competent authorities and stakeholders from all areas**, including public health
- Quality assurance mechanisms **to prevent conflicts of interest**
- Transparent accountability mechanisms **to link achievement of targets and objectives to financial allocations.**
- New monitoring tools and policy evaluation methodologies should be elaborated to **improve the performance-orientation of the policy in the future.**





# New opportunities for health in European food & agricultural policies

Q&A



# What are the main components of a national CAP strategic plan?

**Aurélie Catallo**

Coordinator, Plateforme Pour une autre PAC (France)



# 1. Diagnosis

As regards the specific objective I concerning “societal demands on food and health”

## a) State of play of the sector

⇒ Description of the current situation in the country as regards health, food safety, nutrition, antibiotics use, food quality, diet patterns, etc.

## b) SWOT analysis

⇒ Identification of positive and negative trends: expectation of consumers, use of pesticides, national tools already in place as regards animal welfare, etc.

## c) Assessment and hierarchization of needs

⇒ List of objectives that should be fulfilled by future CAP measures, such as strengthening farms resilience to plant or animal diseases, improving coherence with national dietary guidelines, etc.



## 2. Definitions + conditionnality

- National version / application of definitions listed in the common CAP regulation:
  - ⇒ For instance, “permanent grasslands” = Will pastoral animals, fed not only with grass but also with shrubs, tree leaves, etc., be eligible to CAP payments ?
- National implementation of each rule of conditionnality:
  - ⇒ Rules concerning food safety (e.g. prohibition on the use in stockfarming of certain substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action and betaagonists), registration of animals (e.g. labelling of beef and beef products), animal diseases (e.g. rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies), plant protection products (e.g. handling and storage of pesticides and disposal of remnants)

# 3. Interventions

- Description of:
  - Territorial scope
  - Which objectives it targets
  - Chosen result indicators
  - Beneficiaries
  - Eligibility conditions
  - Support rates
  - Annual planned outputs
  - Etc.
- For each measure of the future CAP, such as:
  - Ecoscheme
  - Coupled aid (to animals or legumes for instance)
  - Organic farming
  - Agro-environmental schemes
  - Etc.



# 4. Performance framework

- Common indicators chosen at EU level. For instance:
    - Impact indicator = I.26 Limiting antibiotic use in agriculture: sales/use in food producing animals
    - Result indicator = R.37 Sustainable pesticide use: Share of agricultural land concerned by supported specific actions which lead to a sustainable use of pesticides in order to reduce risks and impacts of pesticides
  - Member States could maybe add other indicators in their CAP strategic plans, to better monitor some impacts/results/outputs
- ⇒ For instance, reduction of the use of fertilizers or reduction of livestock density



# 5. Governance, including involvement of stakeholders

- Transparent procedures
- Effective involvement of “relevant public authorities”
  - ⇒ This could include health authorities.
- Partners to be involved in the preparation and the monitoring of the CAP Strategic Plans, including representatives of the civil society.
  - ⇒ This could include health and consumers NGOs.





# PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH THROUGH CAP STRATEGIC PLANS

Celia Nyssens



**EEB**

European  
Environmental  
Bureau



# AIR POLLUTION FROM AGRICULTURE

## What is the issue?



Ammonia

PM 2.5

Air pollution  
in rural &  
urban areas

Ground-  
level ozone

Methane

94%

54%

# AIR POLLUTION FROM AGRICULTURE

## And the solutions... Technology?



Nitrogen cycle (Nitrogen losses) (Tg N)



Phosphorus cycle (Phosphorus losses) (Tg P)



- Within estimated European share of global safe operating space
- Zone of uncertainty (increasing risk)
- Beyond estimated European share of global safe operating space (high risk)
- European footprint in 2011

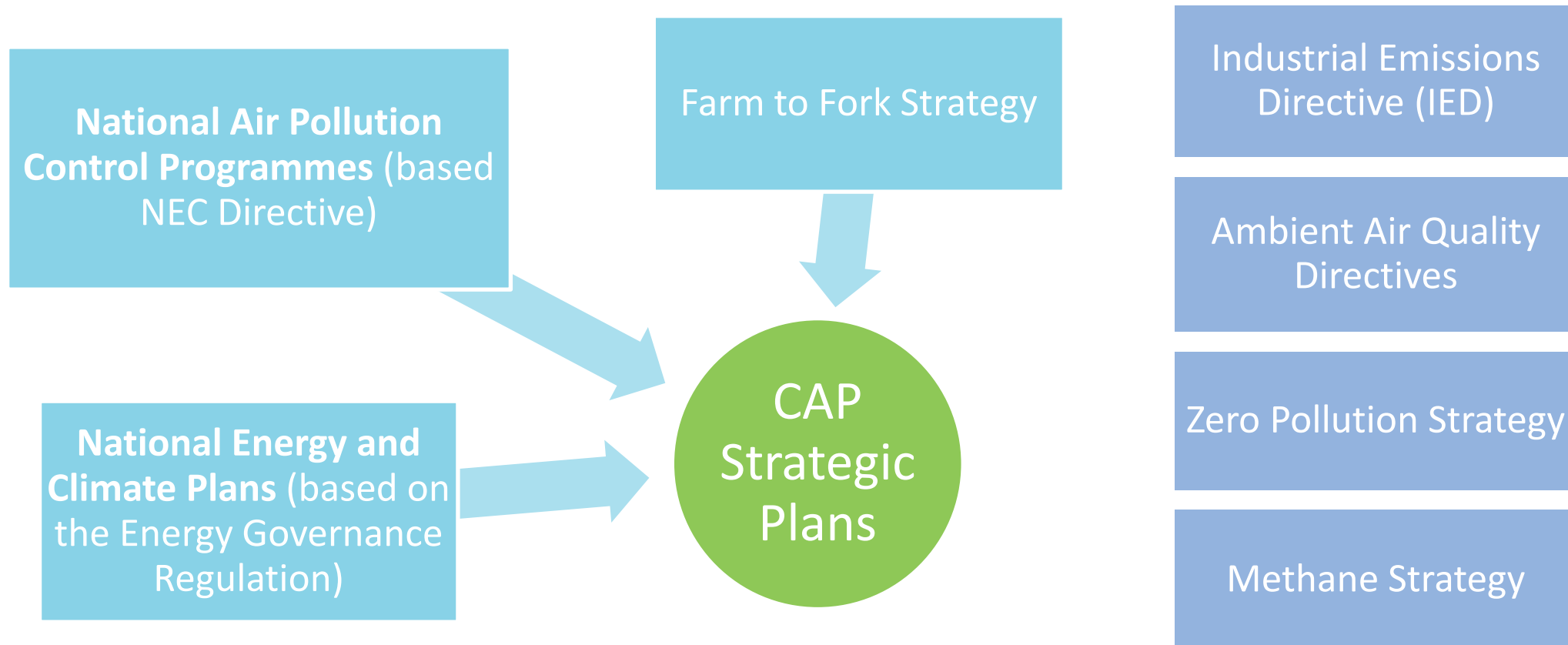
# AIR POLLUTION FROM AGRICULTURE

The real, long-term solution: system change

- Sustainable livestock farming
  - Maximum stocking density / maximum nutrients load
  - No CAP money for feed monocultures or intensive livestock farms
  - Support for the transition to, and maintenance of, extensive livestock farming (incl. agroforestry, pastoralism,...)
- Transition to agro-ecology
  - Long crop rotations including legumes and cover crops for ecologic management of soil fertility and pests
  - Mixed farming (crops and animals) and composting/biodigestion of agricultural waste for closed-loop nutrients management
  - Restoration of “agroecological infrastructure” (hedges, flower strips, ponds, etc.) for healthy and productive eco-systems (+ trees/hedges can serve as pollution screens)

# EU POLICY LANDSCAPE FOR AIR QUALITY

## Linking CAP Strategic Plans & Environmental Policy





# ACTION FOR CLEAN AIR IN CAP STRATEGIC PLANS

## Navigating the CAP maze

### Conditionality

- Strict standards for crop rotation, protection of grasslands, buffer strips, etc. can help, but levers are very limited.

### Subsidy schemes

- Support for extensive livestock farming / reduction of livestock density in intensive farms
- Support for the ammonia reduction measures listed in Annex I of NEC Directive

### Others

- Advisory services to help farmers adopt agroecological practices
- Support for non-productive investments (e.g. new hedges)

# MORE INFO:

The screenshot shows the top section of the 'clean air farming' website. At the top left is the logo, which consists of a stylized cow head profile made of dots, followed by the text 'clean air farming' and the subtitle 'Reducing Ammonia and Methane Emissions from Agriculture'. Below the logo are three language selection buttons: 'DE', 'FR', and 'EN'. A horizontal navigation bar contains the following menu items: 'START', 'ABOUT', 'BACKGROUND', 'ACTIVITIES', 'DOWNLOADS AND LINKS', and 'PRESS'. Below the navigation bar, the text 'Clean Air Farming > Start' is visible. The main visual is a large photograph of two black and white cows in a green field, with a large industrial silo in the background. A small copyright notice '© creativenature-nl / Fotolia' is at the bottom right of the image.

**clean air farming**  
Reducing Ammonia and Methane Emissions from Agriculture

DE FR EN

START ABOUT BACKGROUND ACTIVITIES DOWNLOADS AND LINKS PRESS

Clean Air Farming > Start

Clean air from agriculture

This block contains a snippet from an article. On the left is a small image of a tractor with a large cylindrical tank, emitting a cloud of white dust or mist. To the right of the image is the article title and author information.

**THE BIG STINK: EUROPE'S LOCKDOWN UNCOVERS A SURPRISING SOURCE OF AIR POLLUTION**  
ROBERTA ARBINOLO x APRIL 2, 2020

The drop in traffic fumes in our cities' air is making us more sensitive to a source of air pollution too often ignored: emissions from agriculture. But this C...

This infographic features a background image of a red tractor pulling a large silver cylindrical tank through a green field. The top section contains the 'clean air farming' logo and subtitle. A circular icon with a tractor silhouette and three dots is positioned on the right side. The main text is centered in a light green box.

**clean air farming**  
Reducing Ammonia and Methane Emissions from Agriculture

Ammonia and Methane Emissions from Agriculture

Their impacts and what we can do about it

A Project by: Deutsche Umwelthilfe, FRANCE NATURE ENVIRONNEMENT, EEB European Environmental Bureau, Bodensee-Stiftung

# THANK YOU

Celia Nyssens  
celia.nyssens@eeb.org



**EEB**  
European  
Environmental  
Bureau








# How to shape national CAP strategic plans to pursue nutrition objectives?

Nikolai Pushkarev, EPHA, 11 May 2020

# Which objectives?



more healthy,  
sustainable diets  
(general average)

- + **Vegetables and fruit**
- + **Whole grains**
- + **Legumes**
- + **Nuts & seeds**
- **Less *and better* meat, dairy, eggs**
- **Less processed foods high in fat, sugar, salt** (and likely: less 'ultra-processed' food overall)

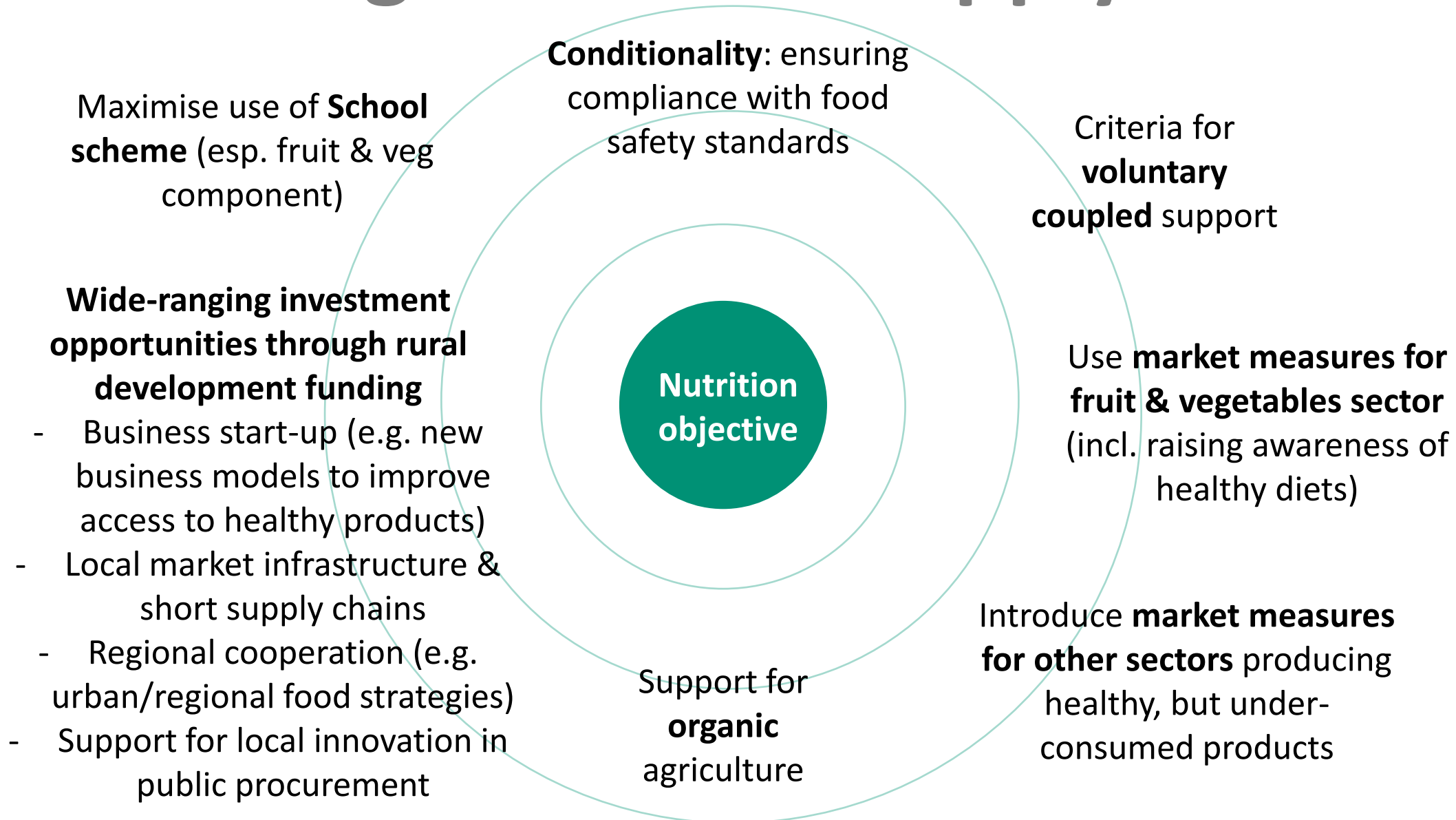


# CAP: space for nutrition?

- **Commitment** to make “*nutritious valuable products such as fruit and vegetables easily available for EU citizens*”. ([COM The Future of Food and Farming, 2017](#))
- New CAP specific **objective**: “*improve the response of EU agriculture to societal demands on food and health, including safe, **nutritious and sustainable food**, food waste, as well as animal welfare.*” ([Proposal for CAP Strategic Plans Regulation](#))
- A patchwork of possible instruments, but **no indicator on nutrition**, so lacking incentive to use instruments strategically?



# Creating nutritious supply chains



# Strategic use of Strategic plans

- Different support measures are available, but a nutrition-related objective will help make **strategic use of CAP Strategic Plans**.
  - *National*: countries can set **voluntary targets** or **align CAP implementation with healthy food policies**.
  - *EU*: CAP reform is not over – **improvements are still possible**.
- **An integrated approach to food and agriculture** is not wishful thinking, but a necessity that is increasingly recognised. But more voices are needed!





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Q&A



**Webinar**  
**New Opportunities for health in  
European Food and Agricultural Policies**

**11<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

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**European Public Health Association  
messages for CAP (and CFP?) negotiators**

**Christopher A Birt**

# Recommendations (1)

- **Meat and dairy production and consumption should be discouraged and reduced;**
- **Poultry and egg production and consumption should be reduced somewhat;**
- **Protein production and consumption should be mainly from a plant-based origin;**
- **Bread and other grain-based products should increasingly use non-standard grains;**
- **Increased fruit and vegetable production and consumption should be encouraged and supported vigorously;**
- **There should be increased availability and consumption of sustainably sourced fish, seafood, and seaweeds, etc.**

# Recommendations (2)

- **Production and consumption of dairy products should be limited, replaced by soya milk, etc., but not by milk substitutes requiring large amounts of water;**
- **Food industry should be discouraged from making foods requiring excess energy or water in their production;**
- **Food industry should be discouraged from making added-value energy-rich ready meals;**
- **Food industry should be encouraged to make increased varieties of vegetarian and vegan foods;**
- **Mandatory systems for management of food waste should be implemented;**
- **New food packaging materials should be adopted, but used only sparingly and when essential, to replace plastic.**

**Any final questions?**

**[christopher.birt75@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.birt75@gmail.com)**



# Thank you for joining!



For any questions or comments, please refer to [nikolai@epha.org](mailto:nikolai@epha.org)

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