

THE FUTURE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY AFTER 2013

The volatility of agricultural and food prices, exacerbated since 2007, has destabilised global farming which was already reeling from the WTO rules adopted after the Marrakech treaty of 1995. It thus endangers the access to food of 3 billion people, including the 85 million Europeans living below the poverty line. Furthermore, agriculture, which is once more a global strategic issue, now faces some major challenges: the feeding and health of 6.6 billion humans, undoubtedly rising to 9 billion in 2050, the exhaustion of fossil fuels, the preservation of land and natural resources (biodiversity, water quality...), climate change... To become sustainable, it needs to evolve towards organic farming, as defined by the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food.

For Europe, its agricultural sector, considered in the broadest sense, has long been a significant economic asset, even if food self-sufficiency, the main objective of the Treaty of Rome, has never been achieved, and farmers are finding it increasingly difficult to live off the fruits of their labour.

A symbol of European integration, and the main integrated European policy, the CAP will be reformed in 2014. This approach sparks numerous debates. The Commission presented its first guidelines in its communication of 18 November 2010. Discussions will continue until summer 2011, which will see the beginning of the actual negotiations.

This reform goes beyond the strict framework of agriculture as it comprises social, environmental and territorial aspects.

Representing all parts of civil society, le Conseil économique, social et environnemental (Economic, Social and Environmental Council) should clarify the challenges considered, specifying the priority objectives it will assign to the CAP in the medium term, and proposing measures to achieve them.

For the ESEC, the future reform will only be one stage. It should be carried out within the context of a substantial reorientation consistent with a long term vision of community agriculture.

Relying on audacity and the intelligence of men and women in the regions, it should prove that the CAP is above all a policy of solidarity in which everyone: citizens, consumers, taxpayers, rural players and of course farmers, benefits.

TURNOVER OF FRENCH AGRICULTURE

sale of produce:

85%

aid:

just 15%

Between 2003/2007

aids: **89%**

of agricultural revenue

To feed itself, the EU imports produce equivalent of **29** Million hectares (= **20%** of its total agricultural surface area)



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THE PROPOSALS OF THE ESEC

👉 FIGHTING THE VOLATILITY OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD PRICES

- Reconstituting strategic buffer stocks, over and above food security stocks proposed by the G20
- Improving the transparency of markets and stocks; limiting access to futures markets
- Establishing large agricultural production and trade regions for true food sovereignty
- Changing the rules of the WTO for agriculture, or envisaging a dedicated body
- Expanding producers' right to form groups
- Strengthening policies aimed at promoting the export of high added value foodstuffs
- Integrating employment as one of the objectives of the CAP in the same way as those of the Treaty of Rome
- Creating a European agricultural employment intelligence unit
- Applying social conditionality to CAP payments

👉 COMBINING ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Reform of the CAP is a chance to be seized to reconcile farming and the environment, and to move towards agroecology

- Proposing a broad raft of six measures involving "greening" (one to be applied in 2014 and a second subsequently)
- the second pillar to provide farmers with long term support in evolving their production systems

👉 DECIDING ON A FOUR POINT PROTEIN PLAN

- Encouraging farmers to produce protein crops and leguminous crops
- Setting up a complete chain and achieving attractive prices
- Obtaining the right from the WTO to apply import taxes to protein rich products
- Seeking more productive varieties

👉 MAKING THE REGIONS PROSPER

- Developing regional diversification policies and providing active support to collective action
- Increasing the "support" budget for rural areas to improve their day to day «liveability»
- Expanding the responsibilities of the Regions

👉 REDIRECTING SUPPORT

- Assigning fixed aid, the basic decoupled payment, to each operation according to the number of jobs, limited to 6
- Progressively rebalancing the levels of aid through the sharing of resources between regions and products
- Establishing a decreasing scale for aid, or at least a ceiling
- Strengthening the coupled aid system to ensure the sustainability of agriculture in certain regions
- Ensuring the progressive growth in momentum of «greening» recommendations and aid
- Maintaining, indeed increasing, the budget for the second pillar
- Relaxing budgetary rules (multi-annual management or counter-cyclical aid)

👉 IMPLEMENTING THE NECESSARY ADDITIONAL MEASURES

- Coordinating research and vocational training at a European level
- Establishing environmental harmonisation (water, phyto-sanitary products...)
- Committing to a policy of increased social harmonisation

👉 WHAT ABOUT NON FOODSTUFF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION?

This question is open to debate: a separate industrial strand? A mere tool for managing surplus?

How to reduce their impact on greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation and biodiversity?

The ESEC is therefore calling for an extensive debate, to which it will contribute, about the role of agriculture and forests in a global energy policy.

The risk of competition with food production is real; the ESEC recommends controlling it, managing it and limiting, from now on, the use for energy purposes of agricultural products, at international and European levels.