



German platform for associations on the EU's common agricultural policy

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French-German Cooperation on EU's common agricultural policy

Alliance calls on French and German agriculture ministers to a prevent a race-to-the-bottom in EU agricultural policy

Ministers Klöckner and Travert cannot agree on a joint statement? The representatives of civil society can! Associations in both countries call for stricter regulations on food, the environment, fairness and animal welfare throughout the EU.

German Agriculture Minister Julia Klöckner and French Minister Stéphane Travert announced at their meeting in Paris on 25 June that they would present a joint declaration on the Commission's proposals for reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to the EU Agriculture Council on 16th July. What the ministers have not achieved to date, a few days before the Agriculture Council, is now being carried out by civil society, which defends the public interest. In a joint statement, the French association platform "Pour une autre PAC" (For another EU Common Agricultural Policy) and the German platform of associations for environmental and nature conservation, agriculture, development policy, consumer protection and animal protection, address the two ministers.

The alliance fear that inadequate requirements at EU level will lead to an undercutting and thus race-to-the-bottom by the member states. High EU-wide minimum standards are therefore necessary so that the targets agreed in EU directives and the strategies for environmental, nature, climate and animal protection as well as for fair incomes of farmers, can be achieved. The associations call not only for a ban on deterioration of the status quo, but also for a commitment to significant improvement in all Member States.

The alliance calls on Minister Klöckner and Minister Travert to support such EU-wide binding and ambitious environmental and social targets for all funding and CAP measures. Farmers should be given funding for specific services related to their production operations, for environmental, nature and climate protection and animal welfare. Therefore, both ministers should strongly support the prevention of the Commission's proposed reduction of EU funds for agri-environmental programmes, organic farming, naturally disadvantaged areas, nature conservation and rural development (Pillar 2). Secondly, the new instrument of environmental measures financed by direct payments (the eco-scheme) should also be binding and used as remuneration for specific services in all Member States, comprising a substantial proportion of the budget (minimum budgets also in the first pillar).

The EU Commission intends to require all member states to promote risk management. The alliance rejects the idea that insurance premiums from farms are financed with EU agricultural funds. Rather, the primary task of the CAP should be to minimise risks, for example through incentives for diverse value creation (diversification), measures for climate protection, increasing soil fertility and biodiversity.

The alliance calls for more binding targets for the first hectare surcharge in order to really boost small and medium-sized farms in the development of agricultural work. The Commission's proposal on degression and capping, taking labour costs into account, is welcomed in principle by the alliance, but they call for important changes to the concrete design so that the instrument can have the desired effects.

In order to prevent market crises that threaten the existence of the sector, the associations call for direct intervention at EU level, including temporary measures to limit the volume. Last but not least, the associations call for clear regulations in the CAP to prevent negative effects of EU exports and imports on regional and local markets, the environment and income potential in the Global South, among other things. Both in the area of financial assistance and market regulation, an assertive position at EU level is needed to enable farmers and rural communities in Europe to have fair economic prospects in line with environmental, nature and climate protection.

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German Platform on CAP

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The German platform for associations on the EU's common agricultural policy has contributed several papers to the discussion on the current CAP reform¹. They were signed by the following associations and organisations:

Arbeitsgemeinschaft bäuerliche Landwirtschaft e.V. (AbL);
 Bischöfliches Hilfswerk Misereor e.V.; Brot für die Welt;
 Bundesverband Beruflicher Naturschutz e.V. (BBN); Bundesverband Berufsschäfer e.V.; Bundesverband Deutscher Milchviehhalter e.V. (BDM); Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland e.V. (BUND); BUND Naturschutz in Bayern e.V.; Bund Ökologische Lebensmittelwirtschaft e.V. (BÖLW); Deutscher Naturschutzring e.V. (DNR); Deutscher Tierschutzbund e.V.; Deutscher Verband für Landschaftspflege e.V. (DVL); Germanwatch e.V.; Greenpeace;
 EuroNatur - Stiftung Europäisches Naturerbe; NABU – Naturschutzbund Deutschland e.V.; NaturFreunde Deutschlands; Neuland e.V.; Netzwerk Solidarische Landwirtschaft e.V.; Schweisfurth Stiftung; Slow Food Deutschland e.V.; Verband Deutscher Naturparke e.V. (VDN); Weidewelt e.V.; Zukunftsstiftung Landwirtschaft (ZSL).

¹ https://www.abl-ev.de/uploads/media/Plattform-Verb%C3%A4nde_2018-03_Stellungn_zur_KOM-Mitteilung.pdf, https://www.abl-ev.de/uploads/media/18-07-03_Verbaendeplattform_Stellungnahme_Rettet_den_Mehrwert_der_EU_Agrarpolitik-b.pdf