



COMMISSION
DES
AFFAIRES EUROPÉENNES

Paris, le 11 avril 2017

LE PRÉSIDENT

**JOINT PARLIAMENTARY DECLARATION ON THE FUTURE OF THE CAP FOR 2020 :
« REBUILDING THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY, A STRATEGIC PRIORITY FOR
THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION »**

MPs from four national parliaments met at the French Senate on 11 April 2017 to discuss the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for 2020.

The European Commission announced a first communication on the subject to be published by the end of 2017. Within this context and in order to contribute to the launch of this public debate, the signatories of this declaration wanted, on an individual and joint level, to express their commitment to the following principals of action:

1. Reiterate the legitimacy, at the heart of an ambitious and inclusive European project, of a strong, simple and clear common agricultural policy which increases to a greater extent the link between food issue and environmental and social issues. The CAP should continue to pursue its Treaty goals, the advancement of the agricultural sector and broader societal goals ;
2. Affirm that the CAP, which remains a strategic priority for the Union in order to ensure food safety and sovereignty, must strengthen the resilience and durability of European agriculture. The CAP must strive to develop the ability of the sector to withstand volatility, climate hazard and force majeure in the long-term; however, this should not be at the cost of supports for producers who, through no fault of their own, are at risk in the short-to-medium term ;
3. Underline that this strategic priority should be allocated, for the 2020-2026 period, a budget which matches its ambitions, based on maximum effectiveness, and does not constitute an “adjustment variable” of the Union budget. A properly resourced CAP is integral to a Union-wide response to the challenges of the coming years, from the UK’s withdrawal from the EU to the potential impact of EU trade policy on the agricultural sectors of Member States ;
4. A more global reorganization of the European Union’s own ressources system, based on the recommendations of the High Level Group chaired by Mister Mario Monti, must be capable of properly supporting the own purposes of the CAP ;
5. The EU budgetary ressources dedicated to the CAP should be aimed at developing a specific strategy based on raising quality standards, the accountability of all stakeholders in the food-production chain, the strengthening of producers’ role in the sector, improvements in consumer information, and the opportunity to support and to orient consumption towards quality products ;

6. Affirm that CAP market orientation is essential in the face of any crises which may occur, to enable farmers to cope with the volatility of agricultural prices ;

7. Desire that the next CAP translates the changes to agricultural markets proposed in the task force report, published in November 2016, which consists of adapting the competition law to agricultural specificities and ensuring greater power to producers in the food chain. In dealing with this issue, the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality must be carefully considered ;

8. Underline that the ongoing simplification by the European Commission should be further developed, to achieve a CAP centred to a greater extent, on the needs and expectations of European farmers. A reformed CAP should also reflect the needs of the administrations involved in managing CAP schemes, in order to ensure that simplification benefits both the beneficiaries and administrative agencies ;

9. Fully insert into future agricultural policies measures to support and to implement precision technologies, which can make the agricultural sector more competitive. Those measures should at the same time assure that supply meets the growing demand for food, but with reduced impact on the environment,

10. Make it possible for the CAP to reach its goal to apply to all stages of the foodchain, from production to distribution ;

11. Reaffirm the importance of the unity of the internal market and of equal conditions of competition in the EU single market, while additionally recognising that some Member States are affected to a greater extent by specific challenges, including but not limited to, the exit of the UK from the EU ;

12. Reinforce the international promotion of our products and seek export opportunities by protecting and supporting quality agricultural production. A reformed CAP should also support producers in diversifying their output, particularly where such diversification provides environmental, and/or social benefits, to rural communities.

At the half-way point of the 2014-2020 budgetary programming, the review of the common agricultural policy leads, as of now, to reflection on its strategic orientation as of 2020. MPs from national parliaments in the Union intend to be actively involved in this debate.

Mr Jean Bizet

Chairman of the French Senate's European Affairs Committee

Mr Vannino Chiti

Chairman of the Italian Senate's European Affairs Committee

Mr Jerzy Chróścikowski

Chairman of the Polish Senate's Agriculture and Rural Development Committee

Mr Pat Deering

Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, Food and Marine and member of the lower house of the
Oireachtas (the Irish Parliament)