



Paris, le 12 avril 2018

MOTION FOR A NEW EUROPEAN RESOLUTION ON THE
COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Passed in Paris on April 19, 2018, by the Committee for the
European Affairs - French Senate

- ① The French Senate,
- ② Having regard to article 88-4 of the Constitution,
- ③ Having regard to the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union, in particular articles 38 to 44 ;
- ④ Having regard to the European council conclusions of 22 and 23 march 2018, on the next multiannual financial framework (MFF) of the European Union, on the one hand, and on the future of the common agricultural policy (CAP), on the other hand ;
- ⑤ Having regard to the Commission's and European Parliament's preparatory documents on the CAP and MFF 2021-2027 ;
- ⑥ Having regard to the European resolution of the French Senate of 8 september 2017, on the CAP overhaul ;
- ⑦ Having regard to the "Omnibus" Regulation (EU) 2017/2393 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2017 ;
- ⑧ Having regard to the ongoing trade negotiations ;
- ⑨ Having regard to the presidency Agricultural and Fisheries Council conclusions of 19 march 2018, on the communication of
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the European Commission entitled “The Future of Food and Farming”;

Considering that the French agriculture has been bled dry by the several crises in the recent years and that France could not get out of this downward spiral without an offensive strategy, that could also draw inspiration from the example of other member States of the European Union ;

⑪ Considering that the CAP current operating methods do not ensure a sufficient level of protection to farmers, in particular regarding the volatility of agricultural prices ;

⑫ Considering that, in spite of the welcome improvements provided by the “Omnibus” Regulation of 13 december 2017, the CAP’s crisis management tools are neither efficient enough, nor sufficiently responsive ;

⑬ Considering that the preparatory elements yet available on the next CAP reform would only provide a partial response to the recommendations of the Senate’s resolution of 8 september 2017, or even contradict some essential items as regarding budgetary, this circumstance leads the Senate to reaffirm its priorities for the next reform ;

⑭ Recalls the importance of agriculture and the food sector for the economic and societal fabric;

⑮ Asks that the CAP enjoy at a minimum, for the period 2021-2027, a stable budget ;

⑯ Laments the presentation of the CAP as an “old policy” with a “low European value added”, even though other large agricultural world powers as China, the United States, India and Russia have in contrast increased their financial aid in the sector ;

⑰ Assesses the condition of the European and French agriculture as too weak to be subject to substantial budget cuts, asks the European institutions to share this observation and will support every initiative from the French authorities that would oppose to this view, in the upcoming negotiations ;

⑱ Accordingly refuses that the CAP becomes the adjustment variable of the European Union’s budget on the grounds of the lack

of resources created by UK's withdrawal and the emergence of new European political priorities;

- ⑲ Considers it essential that the European Commission quickly provides effective guarantees on its new view of the implementation modality for the CAP, regarding the serious risk of creating distortion of competition ;
- ⑳ Considers, in the absence of this information, that the simplification pattern proposed by the European Commission would only be a statement of principle, while the experience of the regional development plans under the CAP second pillar however raise the concern of an additional complexity ;
- ㉑ Asserts that the adoption of the “Omnibus regulation” is only one step in moving towards a better securing of farmers’ incomes, thanks to a broader range of instruments, including insurance ;
- ㉒ Reiterates the need to adapt, generally speaking, competition law to agricultural specificities and to effectively strengthen the power of producers in the food chain, which is not yet sufficiently ensured by the European regulation ;
- ㉓ Asks that the fight against transnational corporations’ unfair trade practices and against the tax optimization practices by “offshore installations” in the distribution sector be subject to a European regulation ;
- ㉔ Rejects the prospect of a status quo for the next CAP regarding crisis management or intervention rules, on the grounds that the progress of the “Omnibus regulation” would be sufficient, even if it means the changeover of a part of the amount of decoupled aids towards risk management mechanisms, or the creation of new tools within the “first pillar”, as well as the activation of existing mechanisms of the “second pillar” ;
- ㉕ Laments, in a general context where farmers lack regulation tools for economic risks related to performance and climate, that the crisis reserve of the European budget has not been activated since 2013, which would justify its future use in a three-year framework ;
- ㉖ Asks that the agricultural crisis management measures taken by the European Union be based on mechanisms of voluntary aids for production cuts, even more effective if all member States

respect this collective discipline, with no opportunistic behavior of “free rider” ;

②7 Calls upon to generally address competition and crisis management questions in a practical and an effective manner, beyond single policy considerations in favor of market rules ;

②8 Confirms its attachment to the support of less-favored areas, as well as maintaining jobs and territories’ diversity issues in the conception and the functioning of the Common agricultural policy ;

②9 Recalls the importance of giving value to the positive externalities of agriculture, in particular for its potential as regards storing carbon, services provided, for society and environment, which should grant to farmers a better and simpler remuneration for the common goods they produce ;

③0 Reaffirms the importance of research and innovation for the future of the European agriculture, while claiming for a more incentive agricultural policy in those fields ;

③1 Reiterates its attachment to the reciprocity principle and the need for a fair competition in international trade ;

③2 Confirms its support to the European Commission’s steps aiming to simultaneously ensure the international promotion of our products, the search for export opportunities and the respect of geographical indications on foreign markets ;

③3 Continues to require the European Commission to ensure the compliance with the equality of sanitary competition, environmental and production conditions applicable to imports of agricultural products of third countries, with respect to the products of the European Union ;

③4 Reaffirms that the European Commission has to provide the same amount of administrative resources to already signed trade agreements than to the opening of new trade negotiations ;

③5 Asks the European Commission to be particularly watchful to the preservation of future trade relations between the United Kingdom and the European Union, in the fields of agriculture and fishery ;

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Wonders about the possibility to conclude ongoing CAP negotiations by spring 2019 ;

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Encourages the Government to express this position during Council negotiations.