

The Andersons Centre – Latest News Update

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CAP Post 2013

With the Commission expected to issue a paper on the CAP post 2013 towards the end of this year lobbying continues to gather pace. Each week there seems to be a new report or paper delivered on the future of the CAP. It seems most are agreed that a future CAP will need to ensure that agriculture is equipped to address food security concerns, but do so in a more sustainable way. It will also need to continue (or even increase) the delivery of public goods whilst (possibly) receiving less support.

A recent forum held in Brussels organised by Syngenta and the European Landowner's Organisation (ELO) – 3rd Forum on the Future of Agriculture on the Economics and Politics of Food Security vs Climate Change saw EU Environment Commissioner Janez Potocnik calling for a 'profound greening' of the CAP. He said that this would lead to stronger public support and would in turn mean that the CAP would maintain a high level of finance. He also went on to say that there should be a shift away from the historic reference payments to flatter rate payments, with area payments different according to land use i.e. higher payments for holdings with a higher proportion of permanent pasture. He even suggested that area payments should be linked to mandatory requirements such as minimum areas of biodiversity or crop rotations. He concluded by saying that 'somewhere in the future' he envisaged an EU policy called the 'Common Agricultural and Environmental Policy'.

Other speakers at the Forum included DG Agri Director Tassos Haniotis who also said that the high level of support through the historical reference payment will need to be addressed and there should be a provision for basic public goods with targeted measures to help combat climate change. Former EU agricultural commissioner Franz Fischler (now chairman of the RISE Foundation) stated the EU must not make the same mistakes as it did post war, increasing productivity but at the expense of the environment. CAP reform needed to provide both food security and 'green' public goods.

Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Ciolos will be launching a public debate on the future of the CAP in April 2010. As a spring-board to the debate, the Commission has said the CAP must enable farmers to be as market orientated as possible, provide a safety net against extreme volatility which may affect the production base, whilst helping farmers to modernise, provide public goods and to meet new challenges such as climate change.

For further information on CAP Reform, please contact us

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