

DRAFT

THE STRATEGIC AGENDA

Civil Dialogue Group (CDG) on Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2015-2020

➤ Scope of the CDG

- The Treaty established the CAP with the objectives to improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food and at the same time ensure a fair standard of living for the agricultural community. These objectives continue to be valid today. However, more than 50 years later, EU farming is facing numerous and increasing challenges and the CAP is called to respond to and address them both at global and EU levels: food security, food sovereignty, climate change and sustainable management of natural resources, energy efficiency and emissions reduction, maintenance of vibrant rural areas and countryside, promotion of growth, investment, competitiveness, innovation and jobs creation, proper functioning of food supply chains.
- The CDG will be assisting the Commission's services in maintaining a regular dialogue on all matters relating to the CAP, including its implementation and potential new measures/reforms that the Commission will be called on to adopt, as well as on simplification and transparency issues through the exchange of expertise and experience, issuing own initiative reports (or under request by COM service) and advice. Doing so it will help ensuring the policy fulfill its objectives.
- While keeping-up to date with the developments in other CDGs that deal in more detail with the technical aspects of the CAP, the group's aim will be to maintain an overarching approach on all CAP related issues and to ensure the provision of political guidance on its recommendations and advice to the Commission, also in view of future reforms.
- The strategic agenda should be considered as an ever evolving document that will be adjusted and modified according to the developments in the sector and "external" policy factors i.e. general economic situation, trade agreements, environmental legislation, etc. impacting it.
- The Commission should maximize the input/feedback provided by the group, engage to the fullest extent during the meetings and report on how the intelligence provided has

been used for relevant policy initiatives. Due to the importance of the CDG, efforts should be made to increase the number of meetings per year in order for the group to achieve a dynamic approach to the policy developments.

➤ **Priorities ahead**

As the CDG has a horizontal view on the policy, the group will aim to maintain a cross-cutting approach to policy issues. Whenever deemed necessary, and depending on the policy developments, the group will prioritise discussion of certain issues over others.

Following the adoption of the last CAP reform in 2013 and its full implementation as from 2015, the group, in its effort to achieve better and more effective regulation, will elaborate further on the following areas:

- Follow-up the implementation of the reform and the performance of the measures in both Pillars in achieving the three overarching objectives of the reform. Sufficient data will be necessary for the group to be able to evaluate the effectiveness of the measures and the extent to which these have reached/achieved the pre-set goals. The group will contribute to the Commission's work by bringing forward its own experience from the on-going implementation. It will also when deemed necessary welcome experts from outside the group to present key data on implementation.
- Closely follow up the simplification exercise launched by the Commission as well as the developments on that front in the other EU institutions, particularly the European Parliament and Council. Taking stock of the discussions and the actual DAs, the group should provide the services with suggestions, and where possible with examples from the ground, of positive or less successful implementation cases, in order to help make this exercise as efficient as possible, always ensuring simplification is used as a tool to achieve more efficiently the three overarching objectives of the policy.
- The group will look closely into the advancement of the monitoring and evaluation of the CAP. Wherever possible quantitative analysis should be done and detailed data should be provided to the group by the Commission services on all areas included under the scope of the CMEF. External experts could be invited to present innovative monitoring methods.
- Preparation of the post 2020 period. The CDG with the cooperation of the Commission services, and where deemed necessary with the help of external experts,

will launch the discussion that will pave the way for the next phase of the CAP. In this context, the group should consider and examine a number of elements, giving particular emphasis to issues such as food security, jobs and growth, research and innovation, sustainable development, environmental protection and emissions/climate change reduction, well-being and rejuvenation of the population in rural areas, improvement of the functioning of the food supply chain and markets including sufficient safety nets. The goal of setting the policy fit on time for the challenges ahead is vital not only for the farming community, but also for a number of other economic and non-economic actors depending on the sector or that are impacted by it.

- The group will examine and discuss the proposals of the EU Commission on the review of the Europe 2020 strategy for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth expected before the end of 2015. The Commission's services will be expected to provide timely information on the proposal package in order to facilitate the group to come forward with policy proposals.
- Considering the important role of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), its 2016 review should be included in the discussions. The CDG will ahead of time identify the best way ahead in order to better target jobs, growth, investment and competitiveness as stipulated in the Commission President's mission letter. In the same context the group should elaborate on the effectiveness of EU spending towards objectives such as the sustainable management of natural resources and the financial rules on agriculture and rural development.