

Solution notes

COPA

Basic assessment of EU agricultural policy:

The organization considers the European agricultural policy to be a significant instrument. The agricultural sector needs this support to supply the population with food and to produce sustainably. A single subsidy model should strengthen the pan-European agricultural sector. It is crucial to maintain two strong pillars. Funds should not be transferred from one pillar to the other. Income support is crucial because the situation on the markets is increasingly difficult. Simplification of the current subsidy model is also crucial. In the long term, it is important to combine economic stability with sustainability, the latter being at the heart of the CAP ([copa*cogeca: The Future CAP post 2020: 3](#)).

Demands for the future of agricultural policy:

Specifically, COPA demands the following:

- A strong common agricultural policy would strengthen the EU as a whole. In this context, it is also crucial to establish links to other policy areas (e.g. digitalization) ([copa*cogeca: The Future CAP post 2023: 4f.](#)).
- Agriculture has a special role to play, as it ensures food production and bears responsibility for the environment and society in a decisive way. A pure market orientation would not do justice to these services. In order to ensure a secure income for farmers, subsidies are necessary ([Ibid. p. 6f.](#)).
- Income support from the "First Pillar" is the basis of the entire CAP. Cuts in this area are firmly rejected. Special allocations for rural regions with special requirements are categorized as very important instruments. Furthermore, the association is in favor of increasing the funds for the CAP. This is justified in view of the social, economic, and ecological demands that agriculture has to cope with. At the same time, there should be better communication of how and to whom CAP subsidies are distributed ([Ibid. p. 8f.](#)).

- The system of controls and sanctions should be simplified; a reduction in bureaucracy is called for ([ibid. p. 10f.](#)).
- It is emphasized that the agricultural sector has an important ecological role. Since society benefits from sustainable agriculture, it should support it. It is also important to combine ecological sustainability with social and economic sustainability. Therefore, securing jobs and ensuring growth and competitiveness is important. Agriculture should become a more attractive occupational field and appeal to the younger generation ([ibid. p. 12](#)). Agriculture can contribute to sustainability and climate protection at various levels - for example, by using less land more efficiently or through sustainable water management ([ibid. p. 13](#)).
- Economic and environmental uncertainties continue to put pressure on agriculture (e.g. fluctuations in the markets, new animal and plant diseases, damage due to climate change). In view of this, a basic income security through direct payments is necessary. In addition, there is a need to establish other forms of support that can be used in a targeted manner when one of the above-mentioned pressures comes into play ([ibid. p. 14](#)).
- It should also be permitted for farmers to cooperate more closely; competition law should be adapted accordingly. Furthermore, increased support with funds from the "second pillar" is demanded. Agriculture is of crucial importance for the development of rural areas, which is why it should be supported with appropriate funds ([ibid. p. 16f.](#)).
- Furthermore, it calls for the generation change in agriculture to be promoted in a targeted manner. On the one hand, this should be done through special economic support. On the other hand, networks should be supported in which young farmers can find advice and training opportunities ([ibid. p. 19](#)).

Reference:

Copa*cogeca. The Future CAP post 2020.

<https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:kJgQvvhEoXoJ:https://copa-cogeca.eu/Download.ashx%3FID%3D1745159+&cd=1&hl=de&ct=clnk&gl=de>
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