

Open letter: Civil Society alarmed by the prospect of regressive Common Agricultural Policy reform

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

We are writing to you to address the way the current reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has been managed by the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI).

The future of European agricultural and food policies is a societal issue that concerns us all. The majority of AGRI MEPs have ignored citizens' calls and have failed to ensure that their concerns are fairly represented. This comes as a major disappointment to European citizens who had hoped that increased power to the European Parliament would close, rather than increase, the democratic gap the EU is facing.

The CAP is in crisis: the bulk of its considerable budget is distributed unfairly between farmers, with no clear policy objective in mind, while only small amounts support sustainable farming and rural areas. Instead, subsidies have driven, and continue to support, unhealthy and environmentally damaging approaches to farming and land management, poor animal welfare conditions and hindering the development of agriculture in developing countries. The public has repeatedly voiced these concerns but so far they have largely been ignored (a 2011 Eurobarometer shows that 77% of European citizens want more environmental conditionality attached to CAP subsidies).

Our organisations support the principle of public money for public goods in agriculture and rural development policy. This means public support must only be given to farmers in return for a healthy and vibrant countryside, and environmentally benign food production. Subsidies which negatively affect our environment, our health, jobs, developing countries and animal welfare should be abolished.

For the first time ever, MEPs have co-decision with Council to vote for change in agriculture policy. However, in January 2013, the Parliament's AGRI Committee voted for a position that would de facto take the policy backwards.

Under the AGRI Committee's vision for the CAP, money would continue to be unfairly distributed and support would be channelled to even the most polluting farming practices, with some farmers even paid twice for the same environmental practices (a principle going against the basic treaties of the EU). In essence, the AGRI Committee's position goes against the environment, our health, jobs, animal welfare and developing countries. This also goes against the expressed opinions of the other committees in the European Parliament.

But you can change this! Up until now the debate has been controlled by a small group of MEPs defending vested interests in the larger AGRI Committee. In March, the full European Parliament will decide upon its final negotiating position and the opportunity to prevent a backwards and biased reform must be grasped with both hands.

The European Parliament has proven that it can change destructive policies for the better, most recently with the plenary vote on the Common Fisheries Policy's Basic Regulation. Now is the time to do the same for the CAP.

We ask you, as public representatives, to act on behalf of real public interest when you vote on CAP reform in March, upholding the crucial role of the European Parliament.

Our organisations are at your disposal to help in reaching constructive solutions.



BirdLife Europe



APRODEV
Association of World Council of Churches related Development Organisations in Europe



European Environmental Bureau



Eurogroup for Animals



European Public Health and Agriculture Consortium



WWF



IFOAM EU Group



Friends of the Earth Europe

Friends of the Earth Europe



Arc 2020



Greenpeace



Climate Action Network Europe



Europarc Federation



European Community of Consumer Cooperatives



International alliance of Catholic development agencies



Pesticide Action Network Europe



Slow Food



Oxfam



Butterfly Conservation Europe



European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism



European Public Health Alliance



CEE Bankwatch Network



Compassion in world farming



Transport & Environment



Fundación Quebrantahuesos



Four Paws



Natuurpunt



Aves



Natagora



Oeuvre d'Assistance aux Bêtes d'Abattoirs



UGT FITAG Industria y Trabajadores Agrarios



Legambiente



BirdWatchIreland



Vogelbescherming Nederland



Nabu



Finnish Federation for Animal Welfare Associations



Asociación Nacional para la Defensa de los Animales



Sociedad Española de Ornitología –
SEO/BirdLife



Centre for sustainable alternatives



Raptor protection of Slovakia



Centre of environmental and ethical
education Živica



Czech Society for Ornithology



Polish Society for the Protection of
Birds



Friends of the Earth Cyprus



Deutscher Naturschutzring



Animal Action Greece



Oceana



Federation of Environmental
Organizations of Cyprus



Butterfly Conservation UK



Latvian Ornithological Society



Hungarian Ornithological and Nature
Conservation Society



Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux



Centrum rozvoje Česká Skalice



Čmelák



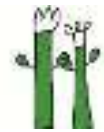
Latvian Botanists Society



Meine Landwirtschaft



Voice Of Irish Concern for the Environment



Arche Noah



Slovak Ornithological Society/BirdLife Slovakia



BirdLife Finland



Natur & Umwelt



Euronatur



Alka Wildlife



Fundación Ecología y Desarrollo



Ecoinstitut



Children of the Earth



Estonian Ornithological Society



FIAN Belgium



FIRAB



AIAB



UPBio - FederBio



Milieu Defensie



Amphibian and Reptile Conservation



Royal Society for the Protection of Birds



Birdlife Slovenia



Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli



Bat Conservation Trust



Buglife



National Trust



Naturfreunde Österreich



Nature friends International



Dierenbescherming



The Mammal Society



Plantlife



Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals



Naturfreunde Deutschlands



Hellenic Ornithological Society



Quercus - Associação Nacional de Conservação da Natureza



Salmon and Trout Association



Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust



Northern Ireland Environment Link



The Wildlife Trust



Campaign to Protect Rural England



Djurens Rätt



Dyrenes Beskyttelse



The Finnish NGDO Platform to the EU



Greeninitiative Association



DAPHNE CZ - Institute of Applied Ecology



Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves



Asociația Salvatului Dunării și Delta



Organizatia ecologista Mare Nostrum



Asociația Grupul de Inițiativă "Radu Anton Roman"



Centrul pentru Resurse Civice



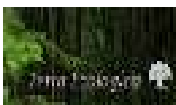
Asociația Tura în Natura Sibiu



Clubul de Ciclism 'NAPOCA'



APS Aqua Crisius Oradea



Asociația Terra Ecologica



Asociația Centrul de Ecologie și Turism Maramureș



Association of Ecotourism in Romania (AER)



Societatea Carpatina Ardeleana – Satu Mare



Asociația Altitudine



Societatea Ornitologica Romana



Natuurmonumenten



Young Friends of the Earth Europe



Lithuanian Fund for Nature



The Swedish Consumers' Association



PRO-BIO Association of organic farmers



Terra-1530



Natur och Miljö r.f.



Ökoburo



Mouvement Ecologique



Birdlife Cyprus



Terra Cypria



Společnost pro zvířata



Swedish Ornithological Society



Lithuanian Ornithological Society



Glopolis



Fundatia Adept



Za Zemiata



Suomen luonnonsuojeluliitto



Danish Ornithological Society



Centre for Transport and Energy



Danish Ecological Council



European Federation of National Associations of Water Services



CEEweb for Biodiversity



Swedish Society for Nature Conservation



France Nature Environnement



Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds



BirdLife Malta



Friends of the Earth
CEPA

Friends of the Earth- CEPA



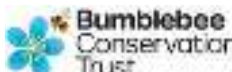
BirdLife Austria



Focus Eco Center



Estonian Fund for Nature



Bumblebee Conservation Trust



Friends of the Earth England



11.11.11.



Dierenartsen Zonder Grenzen



Ethisch Verantwoord Alternatief



Network Bewust Verbruiken



OXFAM
Oxfam Belgium



Vereniging voor Ecologisch Leven en
Tuinieren



Vredeseilanden



Polish Green Network
Alliance of Associations Polish Green
Network



Acção, Liberdade, Desenvolvimento,
Educação, Investigação, Ambiente

IDEA

Irish Doctors Environmental
Association



Eco Ruralis
EcEC



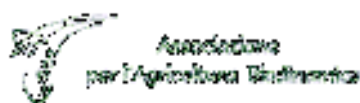
Fondo Ambiente Italiano



Umwelt dachverband



Touring Club Italiano
Touring Club Italiano



Associazione per L'Agricoltura
Biodinamica



Greenpeace Spain



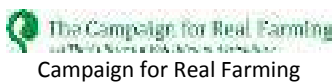
SOCIETA' ITALIANA DI ECOLOGIA DEL PAESAGGIO



Italia Nostra



Calla - Association for Preservation of the Environment



Campaign for Real Farming

Centre for Food Policy, City University London



EcoNexus



Food Matters



The Permaculture Association



Deutscher Verband für Landschaftspflege e.V. (DVL)



Conservatoire d'Espaces Naturels Languedoc-Roussillon



Aliadas Por La Soberanía Alimentaria



Acció Ecologista Agro



Acciónnatura



Asociación Acima. Comunicación e Información Medioambiental



Amigos de la Tierra España



Asociación Concejo de la Mesta



Asociación Cultural Caldero Mágico



Asociación de Agricultura y Ganadería Ecológica "La Tanganilla"



Asociación de Consumidores Ecológicos La Tierrallana



Asociación Fotografía Y Biodiversidad



Asociación de Forestales de España



Asociación Tudanca



Xarxa per Una Nova Cultura de L'Aigua



SOS Perdiz Roja



Asociación Pastores por el Monte Mediterráneo

Asociación De Pastores/as La Gaiata
Asociación de Pastores/as La Gaiata



HELLENIC RANGE AND PASTURE SOCIETY – HERPAS



Fundación Global Nature



Plataforma en Defensa de l'Ebre



Asociación Trashumancia y Naturaleza



Asociación La Raya



Fundación Félix Rodríguez De La Fuente



Federación Andaluza de Consumidores y Productores Ecológicos



Xarxa de l'Observatori del Deute en la Globalització (ODG)



Fundación Oso Pardo



Xarxa de Custòdi del Territori



Fundación Internacional para la Restauración de Ecosistemas



Plataforma de Toledo en Defensa del Tajo



Xúquer Viu



Asociación Silvema Serranía de Ronda



Centro Ibérico De Restauración Fluvial



Sociedade Galega de Ornitología



Asociación Galega de Custodia del Territorio



Slow Food Araba – Álava



Asociación Montaña De Babia y Luna



Asociación Defensa de la Cultura y la Naturaleza (ADECUNA)



Grupo de Rehabilitación de la Fauna Autóctona y de Su Hábitat, (GREFA)



Union Nacional de Asociaciones de CAZA



Asociación Geográfica Ambiental



Fédération Inter-Environnement Wallonie



Plataforma Contra la Especulación Urbanística y Ambiental de Candeleda



MEDITERRANEAN SOS Network



Asociación para el Estudio y Mejora de los Salmónidos (AEMS-Ríos Con Vida)



Asociación Territorios Vivos



Asociación Valor Ecológico



Cooperativa Olivarrera Los Pedroches



Plataforma en Defensa de los Ríos Tajo y Alberche de Talavera de La Reina



Federación de Asociaciones de Vecinos El Ciudadano de Toledo



Red Ciudadana por Una Nueva Cultura del Agua en el Tajo/Tejo y sus Ríos



Fundación por una Nueva Cultura del Agua



Fundación Tormes-EB



Comisiones Obreras (CC.OO) Federación Agroalimentaria



Fondo para la Protección de los Animales Salvajes (FAPAS)



Ecologistas en Acción



Confederación de Consumidores y Usuarios (CECU)



Red de Semillas: Resembrando e Intercambiando



Foro Asturias Sostenible



Fondo Amigos del Buitre

FORO DE REDES Y ENTIDADES DE CUSTODIA DEL TERRITORIO – FRECT



Sociedad Española de Agricultura Ecológica



Asociación para la Recuperación del Bosque Autóctono (ARABA)



Grupo de Acción para el Medio Ambiente (GRAMA)



Plataforma Jarama Vivo



Unión Internacional de Conservación de la Naturaleza – Comité Español UICN



Manos Unidas



Federación Estatal de Pastores



Associació Valenciana de Custòdia i Gestió Responsable del Territori



Grupo Ornitológico Balear (GOB)

Red NCA Júcar

Red por una Nueva Cultura del Agua del Júcar



Convivium Amalur Gipuzkoa Donostia



Fundación Migres



TRENCA



Red Andaluza de Custodia del Territorio (Ínsulas)



ZO CSOP JARO Jaromer



Instituto de Desarrollo Comunitario



Plataforma Salvemos el Henares



Health & environment Alliance



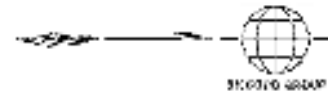
Forest Stewardship Council - Spain



Garden Organic



Susila Dharma International Association



UK Food Group



New Economics Foundation



Réseau Cohérence



Fédération Nationale d'Agriculture Biologique



Reseau agriculture durable

Red Española de Desarrollo Rural



Association 4D



Générations Futures



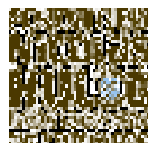
CIVAM



Le mouvement associatif de Terre de Liens



Ecologie, Développement Durable, Démocratie



Fondation Nicolas Hulot pour la nature et l'homme



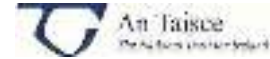
Agir pour l'Environnement



La Fédération Nationale des Parcs
Naturels Régionaux



Sustainable Water Network



An Taisce – the National Trust for
Ireland



Les Amis de la Terre



Risteco



EATING CITY