



Ministerie van Economische Zaken

# A CAP for Europe: view of the Netherlands

Jan Sevenster  
Ministry of Economic Affairs,  
ELVV Directorate

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## The Netherlands



- 34.000 km<sup>2</sup>  
(1/15 of Spain)
- 17 million inhabitants  
(1/3 of Spain)
- 410 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>  
(4 times Spain)
- 18.000 km<sup>2</sup> of agricultural land
- 60.000 agricultural enterprises



## Focus of the Netherlands for the CAP after 2020

1. Maintain and strengthen market orientation
  2. Improve sustainability
  3. Connect agriculture and food policy
  4. Simplify
- Linked to discussion on MFF and Brexit  
CAP budget will likely go down



# 1. Market orientation

## Considerations

- Healthy enterprises should be able to realize an income in the market without continuous support
- Innovation and sustainability are needed for future competitiveness
- Farmers hold a weak position in the food supply chain
- Agriculture faces specific risks and market volatility
- Farmers should be paid for services to society (environment, climate, biodiversity, landscape)



# 1. Market orientation

## Directions for CAP after 2020

- Ensure a level playing field for the internal EU market  
*No reintroduction of distorting (state) aid*
- Stimulate innovation for competitiveness and sustainability
- Strengthen the farmers' position in the food chain  
*AMTF recommendations*  
*Stimulate private risk management to stabilize income*
- Maintain a CAP safety net at low price level
- Transform hectare payments into targeted payments  
*To be explored; see sustainability*



## 2. Sustainability

### Considerations

- Agriculture causes external damage, e.g. biodiversity and landscape loss, environmental pollution, health risks  
*Strong sentiments in society against agriculture*
- Global challenges (e.g. climate, biodiversity, hunger, health) require an integral approach, including agricultural policy.  
*All parties must be committed.*
- Tax payers don't understand payments without obligations  
*Risks are part of the business,  
payments are justified if services are delivered.*



## 2. Sustainability

Directions for CAP after 2020

- Redirect direct income support to payments for services delivered to society

*Protection of biodiversity, landscape, environment  
Climate change mitigation and adaptation*

*Build on greening and/ or agri-environment-climate measures  
Innovation is a success factor!*



## 3. Agriculture and food policy

### Considerations

- Internal market is a food market, not just an agricultural market
- Position of farmer depends on functioning of the food chain.  
*AMTF report and recommendations*
- Public health issues  
*Salt, sugar, fat and obesity*  
*Sustainable production and consumption*
- The CAP should deliver healthy food that is produced sustainably.  
*Agriculture should serve society, not vice versa*





### 3. Agriculture and food policy

Possible directions for the CAP after 2020

- Expand CAP from a producer policy to a food chain policy
- Promote production, sales and consumption of healthy and sustainable food
  - School Fruit and Vegetables Scheme*
  - Reduce consumption of animal protein*
- Invest in education, advice, awareness raising
- Offer transparency to consumers on composition, health impacts and footprint of food products
- Develop an EU food policy or strategy
  - Include perspectives of agriculture, health, environment, etc.*



## 4. Simplification

### Considerations

- Implementation of the CAP has become very complex and costly, in particular controls.
- Regulations are often perceived as bureaucratic, unnecessary or counterproductive, in particular controls.
- Policies focus on accountability rather than on effectiveness.
- Previous intentions to simplify have failed.



## 4. Simplification

Directions for CAP after 2020

- Simplify and streamline rules  
*Omnibus Regulation*
- Seriously reduce administrative burden for farmers and control agencies
- Maintain an EU framework, but leave implementation to MS  
*National level if possible, EU level if necessary*  
*Define objectives, not means*
- Modernise controls  
*Generic EC audits on MS control systems, not on individual cases*  
*Risk-based audits and controls*



## Summary

The CAP after 2020 should:

- Ensure market orientation, maintain level playing field
- Shift direct payments to targeted payments for services to society
- Have an integral approach including sustainability goals
- Be extended to a food chain policy
- Be simple!
- Leave as much responsibility as possible to MS

***Thank you for your attention!***