October 2026

Three priorities for the final CAP negotiations

A Christian Vision for the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

A CAP that keeps its covenant with farmers, the land and the people of Europe



CAP 2028–2034 Negotiations

OUR DAILY BREAD

About the Our Daily Bread Network

Our Daily Bread is a network of faith-based organisations working on food systems. United across the 27 EU Member States, we are called by our Christian faith to care for our common home and to use our collective voice in advocating for a fairer and more sustainable food system in Europe and beyond.

Our advocacy seeks to address questions of **sustainability through the lens of both producers and consumers**. We want the European Union to improve its regulations on food systems so that producers can enhance biodiversity and embrace agroecological practices, and farmers and rural communities are protected. We equally believe that consumers have the power to build a more sustainable food system by changing the way we eat, through organic, healthy and delicious diets with lower meat consumption.

Member organizations

Observer

ODB general contact: **info@ourdailybreadnetwork.eu**

ODB Working Group on CAP:
Emmanuelle Huet (JESC) - **emmanuelle.huet@jesc.eu**
Niall Leahy sj (JCFJ) - **nleahy@jcfj.ie**
Federica Ammaturo (Foundation The Economy of Francesco) - **f.ammaturo@francescoeconomy.org**
Barbara Niedźwiedzka (Christians for Animas) - **mxniedzw@cyf-kr.edu.pl**
Lenka Mačugová (COMECE) - **lenka.macugova@comece.eu**

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Introduction

Our Daily Bread believes that the next Common Agricultural Policy presents a crucial opportunity to deliver justice for our farmers, the living world, and the people of Europe. This document outlines the environmental context to which the CAP must respond, the Christian rationale underpinning our vision of the CAP, and particular policy proposals for how the new CAP can support a just European food system. We address this document to all Christians and people of good will who believe in the EU's ability to be an instrument of justice, sustainability and shared prosperity.

"A summer of truth"

This summer confirmed what scientists have long warned: Europe's food system is not built for the climate it now faces. Successive heatwaves and a sustained rainfall deficit from Portugal to Finland pushed much of the continent into drought, with the World Weather Attribution network describing 2026 as a "compound crisis" of heat and water scarcity[(1)]. The damage to agriculture has been severe and widespread: France's cereal harvest is down an estimated 7.7 million tonnes, with Germany, Poland, Spain and Hungary all recording significant losses[2]; Irish potato growers expect yields to drop by up to 40% in some areas[3]; livestock farmers from Austria to Italy have been forced to feed animals from winter reserves or sell cattle early for lack of grass and water[4]; extreme heatwaves led to the deaths of 2.5 million chicken in France[5]. The Dutch bank Triodos estimates the drought could shave around 1% off EU GDP this year alone[6].

This is not a one-off shock but a preview. It calls us, urgently, to invest in an agriculture that is resilient by design rather than repeatedly treating the symptoms: one that needs less water and fewer synthetic inputs, that restores rather than depletes biodiversity and soil health, that provides animals with living conditions adapted to rising temperatures, and that gives farmers the support they need to make this transition without bearing its costs alone.

Food security, understood over the long term, is not simply a question of output — it depends on resilient ecosystems, diversified farms, and reduced dependency on vulnerable external inputs, from fertiliser to fuel, as this year's disrupted supply chains have shown.

[(1)] World Weather Attribution, reported in Oman Observer, "Heatwaves and lack of rain compound drought in Europe" (23 Jul 2026) — https://www.omanobserver.om/ampArticle/1193347

[2] Carbon Brief, "How this summer's heat and drought impacted crops in Europe – in six charts" (4 Sep 2026) — https://www.carbonbrief.org/how-this-summers-heat-and-drought-impacted-crops-in-europe-in-six-charts

[3] IFA, "Potato Market Report 26th August" (26 August 2026), https://www.ifa.ie/markets-and-prices/potato-market-report-26th-august/

[4] World Grain, "EU grain industry reeling from heatwave" (11 August 2026)— https://www.world-grain.com/articles/23087-eu-grain-industry-reeling-from-heatwave

[5] Rescan, M. (2026) 'Early heatwaves are devastating French agriculture and leaving farmers helpless', Le Monde, 3 July. https://www.lemonde.fr/en/economy/article/2026/07/03/early-heatwaves-are-devastating-french-agriculture-and-leaving-farmers-helpless_6755111_19.html?srsltid=AU7gw4Ut7_IPpUWIN-g88uv3r5oWN8fzeGh_kYVLCydXe4i4sBZzZlYo

[6] The National Herald / AP, "A punishing European drought shrivels crops from Dutch potatoes to Bosnian corn" https://thenationalherald.com/a-punishing-european-drought-shrivels-crops-from-dutch-potatoes-to-bosnian-corn

Christianity and Agri-food

"Men and women have constantly intervened in nature, but for a long time this meant being in tune with and respecting the possibilities offered by the things themselves. It was a matter of receiving what nature itself allowed, as if from its own hand. Now, by contrast, we are the ones to lay our hands on things, attempting to extract everything possible from them while frequently ignoring or forgetting the reality in front of us." Pope Francis[7]

These two ways of working with nature, one motivated by extraction and the other inspired by gift, are evident in Europe today. Since the end of World War II, technological tools and the profit-maximising logic of the "free" market have been increasingly applied to our agriculture and food systems. The so-called "Green Revolution" achieved what it set out to do: it extracted the maximum produce and profit from the land and animals. However, in doing so, it degraded the ecological resources and conditions which allowed for this unprecedented period of extraction. The resources of nature are exhausted — maxed out — and the land is no longer offering what industrial agri-food contracts demand.

There are, however, a growing number of sustainable agri-food initiatives in Europe which are returning to less intensive forms of agriculture. They are, in Pope Francis' words, "*in tune with and respecting the possibilities offered by*" the land itself. These farmers recognise that the land and life on it is a gift which, if cultivated wisely, will give generously. The Christian farmers among them believe that it is a gift from God.

In the Christian scriptures, relationships which are initiated and maintained by gifts are called covenants. Covenants are entered into on the understanding that each party will faithfully and freely give of themselves to the other, allowing the relationship to flourish. Christians believe that God's covenant with humanity will be fulfilled in the reconciliation of humanity with God and with all of creation. (Col 1:20). This is the Christian basis for justice.

Farmers maintain their covenantal relationship with the land and animals by stewarding them — that is, working in ways and at a scale that allows them to flourish in the long run. Farmers also need contracts, but history has shown that when the conditions of agri-food contracts weaken or break the covenant between farmers and the land, both cease to flourish. In order for contracts to deliver the goods we need, they must be at the service of covenants.

Therefore, the Our Daily Bread network wants the EU to enter into contractual agreements with farmers **that will restore and support their covenant with the land and animals**. A CAP with this purpose would make the EU an instrument of justice for farmers, justice for the living world, and justice for the people of Europe.

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[7] Pope Francis. (24 May 2015). Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'* on Care for Our Common Home, §106. https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

Our call: A CAP making Member States accountable and ensuring adequate funding for environmental measures

On 17 July 2025, the European Commission unveiled its proposals for the next Common Agricultural Policy, which will commence in 2028[8]. This new proposal seeks to transfer greater powers to Member States, so that they can design and tailor CAP interventions and tools to their own local conditions, needs, and challenges.

We welcome this shift in principle: local decision-making, exercised well, can bring policy closer to the realities of the land and the people who work it. **But subsidiarity without accountability risks becoming abdication.** If the covenant between farmers, the land, and the people of Europe is to be honoured rather than merely delegated, Member States' new freedom must come bound to real responsibility for outcomes.

Our claim is twofold: First, that the **CAP's move towards fairer distribution of support — through capping and degressivity — be maintained and strengthened**, so that public money reaches those who truly steward the land, not merely those who hold the most of it. Second, that **at least 35% of the overall CAP budget be ring-fenced and fully EU-funded for ambitious environmental, climate, and animal welfare measures [9]**, so that Member States' new responsibility comes with a guarantee that the covenant with the land and its creatures is genuinely funded, not merely permitted. An ultimate commitment should be made to gradually phase out area-based income support, with a greater focus on incentivising the provision of public goods and supporting farmers in need and the transition to sustainable farming models[10].

[8] European Commission, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development. (2025, July 17). The next chapter of the CAP. https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/media/news/next-chapter-cap-2025-07-17_en

[9] We call for at least maintaining the current allocation of 32% of CAP budget dedicated to voluntary schemes for environmental, climate and animal welfare objectives. European Commission. (n.d.). EU support for meeting its environmental ambition. European Commission.https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy/cap-overview/answers-questions-cap/eu-support-meeting-its-environmental-ambition_en

[10] Petrick, C. & Pushkarev, N. (2026). "A CAP built to last: four adjustments towards a durable farm budget." CAP Reform, 28 June 2026. https://capreform.eu/a-cap-built-to-last-four-adjustments-towards-a-durable-farm-budget/

I. Justice for farmers

A covenant cannot be kept by one party alone. If farmers are to steward the land and its animals as a gift entrusted to them, they must themselves be able to live from that stewardship — to farm without being driven into debt, precarity, or exit from the land altogether. Justice for farmers is therefore not a separate concern from justice for the living world: it is the necessary condition for the covenant to be honoured at all.

Yet, Europe's farming sector is in a generational and structural crisis. Farmers face mounting pressures from multiple fronts, such as growing market volatility, high climate risks, rising production costs, unfair pricing conditions and insufficient global governance. Economic inequalities among farmers are steep, with CAP payment further exacerbating the income gap.

1. A fairer distribution of CAP support

To tackle economic inequalities among farmers, degressive area-based income support has been introduced in the new proposal, requiring Member States to direct payments toward those most in need: "*young and new farmers, women, family or small farmers, farmers combining the production of crops and livestock or farmers in areas with natural or other area-specific constraints*."[11] Under this system, the level of support would gradually decrease as the size of the farm increases, with degressivity starting at €20,000 per farmer and a €100,000 annual cap[12]. The proposal sets a Member State-level average Degressive Area Based Income Support (DABIS) range of €130–€240 per hectare.

Together, degressivity and capping help to break land concentration and redistribute funds more fairly, ensuring that large-scale operations do not capture a disproportionate share of CAP resources and that smaller, more vulnerable farms receive stronger income support[13]. With a CAP budget nearly 20% lower than that of its predecessor[14], making every euro count through a fairer distribution is all the more essential. **We call for this redistributive approach to be kept mandatory and maintained as proposed,** and the minimum farm size threshold for access to CAP funds to be removed[15]. **The EU should also uphold and strengthen the definition of "active farmer" with a mandatory, EU-wide exclusion criterion** — a "negative list" — to ensure that payments reach individuals genuinely engaged in food production and land stewardship, rather than corporate structures or holding companies that receive CAP funds without being actively involved in farming.

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[11] Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the conditions for the implementation of the Union support to the Common Agriculture Policy for the period from 2028 to 2034, COM(2025) 560 final, Brussels, 16 July 2025 (interinstitutional file 2025/0241 (COD)). Article 6(2) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:5b8a638c-62f9-11f0-bf4e-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

[12] Ibid,Article 6(3) and Article 6(4)

[13] Donnellan T., Jongeneel R., Vrolijk H., Thorne F., Loughrey J., van Asseldonk M., Dillon E., GonzalezMartinez A. (coordinator). (2026). Support measures for farmers' income in different Member States in the context of inflation and rising production costs. Brussels: European Parliament, Policy Department of Directorate for Regional Development, Agriculture and Fisheries. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2026/759349/CASP_STU(2026)759349_EN.pdf

[14] Galeone, P., & Raiti, F. M. (2025, July 24). CAP Headaches in the Proposed EU budget: The Commission's Trilemma. Institute for European Policymaking @ Bocconi University (IEP@BU). https://iep.unibocconi.eu/cap-headaches-proposed-eu-budget-commissions-trilemma

[15]Talamh Beo. (2026, September 1). "A retail charter is a first step, but we need to recognise and resource Local Food Farms if we want a real change in how we feed ourselves". https://talamhbeo.ie/retail-charter-is-a-first-step/

Farmers' dignity also depends on a fair income, which area-based payments alone cannot guarantee. A fair standard of living for the agricultural community is a core objective of the CAP under the Treaties[16]. **We therefore call for environmental and animal-welfare payments to provide dependable remuneration for the public services farmers deliver**. By rewarding these services, the CAP can also help farmers build resilience, and therefore protect farm incomes against shocks: diversified, lower-input systems with healthy soils can better withstand drought and price shocks, while reduced dependence on purchased inputs, from fertilisers to pesticides, helps protect margins. Risk-management tools must remain available for risks that cannot be avoided, especially during the transition, while prioritising farmers who are actively engaging in making their farms more resilient. **Finally, fair income also requires a fairer food chain: we call on the EU to strengthen farmers' bargaining power** through fair contracts and effective enforcement against unfair trading practices, so that a fair income does not depend on public subsidies alone.

Lastly, we ask for greater flexibility in the minimum average DABIS payment rate, so that Member States can better target income support according to farmers' actual needs and allocate sufficient resources to other CAP objectives. This flexibility should be accompanied by strong EU-level ring-fencing for environmental and climate measures, ensuring that resources freed from area-based income support contribute to the transition toward sustainable farming (see "II. Justice for the living World" section).

2. A real generational renewal strategy

The demographic challenge is stark. The average EU farmer is 57 and only 12% are under 40[17]: without new entrants, the CAP's other ambitions will have no one left to deliver them. Yet, young farmers face high entry barriers, limited access to land, and insufficient financial support.

We welcome the Commission's Strategy for Generational Renewal,[18] the mandatory "starter pack"[19] and the requirement for national strategies. But land, taxation and succession remain national competences, and the 6% investment benchmark is only a recommendation. The CAP regulation should make it a legal minimum, and require national strategies to go beyond initial funding by including concrete land-access measures, such as long-term leases, priority access to public land and pre-emption rights, and by prioritising agroecological, organic and non-family new entrants. The future European Land Observatory should supply the data to monitor whether support actually reaches them.

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[16] Article 39(1) TFEU sets the CAP's objectives: to increase agricultural productivity; to ensure a fair standard of living for the agricultural community, in particular by increasing the individual earnings of persons engaged in agriculture; to stabilise markets; to assure the availability of supplies; and to ensure that supplies reach consumers at reasonable prices. Article 11 TFEU requires environmental protection to be integrated into the definition and implementation of Union policies, and Article 13 TFEU requires the Union and Member States to pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals as sentient beings, including in agriculture.

[17] Eurostat. 2020. Farmers and the Agricultural Labour Force.https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Farmers_and_the_agricultural_labour_force_-_statistics

[18] COM(2025) 872 final. (21 October 2025), https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0872

[19] Ibid 9, Article 16

II. Justice for the living World

Thriving ecosystems are, in the long run, the foundation of both food production and farmers' livelihoods. To bring justice to the living world, for both ecosystems and animals, we draw on the broader definition of efficiency “aiming at the common good” brought by the 2025 study by the German Bishops’ Conference on land use[20], whereby legislators should ensure that all services farmers provide are rewarded: food production but also land and animal protection.

1. Setting robust, enforceable environmental standards

The current CAP proposal weakens the baseline, universal safeguards that every farmer must meet to receive support. What was formerly called conditionality has been recast as a broad "farm stewardship" objective, with weaker and more generic requirements, and wide room for Member States to grant exemptions. After the 2024 and 2025 simplifications, farm stewardship risks locking in an already lowered baseline, leaving the content of protective practices to national design and presuming that compliance amounts to “do no significant harm”.

We ask for safeguards so that flexibility serves genuine local adaptation without opening the door to a race to the bottom on environmental standards or an uneven playing field across the single market. Subsidiarity should apply to the means, not to the level of protection. CAP should therefore replace the currently vague ‘protective practices’ objectives with a set of clearly defined actions and quantifiable objectives that can be monitored and evaluated. Member States would remain free to adapt how these are met, or to go further, provided they demonstrate equivalent or better results. Any national exemption or derogation should be justified by evidence, limited in area and time, and receive prior approval from the European Commission, backed by independent scientific assessment to make sure that environmental outcomes are not compromised. A non-regression clause and common result indicators should prevent any Member State from falling below the current level of protection.

2. Investing in the transition to sustainable farming

Setting robust standards is not enough on its own: transitioning the farming system cannot be achieved by farmers alone, without adequate support. Two funding instruments in the current proposal are meant to carry this weight, but both risk being underpowered as currently designed.

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[20] Bornhorst, B., Emunds, B., Fuchs, D., Goehl, J., Hansjürgens, B., Hendricks, B., Kruip, G., Kalkuhl, M., Prinz zu Löwenstein, F., Mattauch, L., Podlinski, N., Wallacher, J., Wiemeyer, J., & Einsiedel, S. (2025). Food security, climate protection and biodiversity: Ethical perspectives for global land use: An interdisciplinary study in the context of the dialogue project on the contribution of the Catholic Church to a socio-ecological transformation in the light of Laudato si'. Bonn: German Bishops’ Conference, Commission on International Church Affairs. https://www.dbk-shop.de/de/publikationen/publikationen-wissenschaftlichen-arbeitsgruppe-weltkirchliche-aufgaben/studien-sachverstaendigengruppe-weltwirtschaft-sozialethik/food-security-climate-protection-and-biodiversity-ethical-perspectives-for-global-land-use.html?dl_media=34941

Agri-Environmental and Climate Actions (AECAs) are nominally mandatory, yet spending on them is not ring-fenced in the current budget and must even be co-financed by Member States — a combination that risks leaving them underprioritised and underfunded in practice. **We ask that spending for environment and climate objectives be earmarked, fully EU-funded, and increase substantially and annually over the CAP period from the current 32% to at least 35%, with the ultimate aim of reaching 50%,** in line with the Strategic Dialogue[21]'s own conclusions, with a "no backtracking clause" from current ambition and greater comparability between Member States. Within this envelope, we ask for adequate and dedicated funding to support specifically the transition away from factory animal production and pesticide-intensive systems — toward organic and agroecological farming.

The proposed **transition payments of up to €200,000 per farm** could complement AECAs by helping farmers invest, adapt practices, and absorb the costs and risks of transition. **They should be kept, ring-fenced and accompanied by mandatory transition plans** including minimum transition requirements that no Member State can undercut, clear and measurable criteria for what qualifies as a transition, and payments linked to verified outcomes, preventing uneven implementation and greenwashing.

The transition should address both livestock and crop production methods. For livestock, **the CAP should require Member States to adopt ambitious extensification measures,** with limits to stocking densities -including in non-nitrate-vulnerable zones-, greater outdoor access, and improved animal welfare. For crop production, **it should support a phase-out of pesticide-intensive practices,** through organic and agroecological farming, integrated pest management, crop diversification, and non-chemical alternatives. The CAP should also strengthen its EU-wide "negative list" to prevent public money from locking farmers into factory farming or pesticide-intensive systems, while redirecting support towards farming systems that restore biodiversity, soil health and ecosystem resilience (organic, cage-free and other high-welfare systems). Finally, the phase-out of pesticide-intensive and factory-farming practices cannot rest on the supply side alone: it depends on a parallel shift in how Europeans eat, with fewer products from intensive animal systems and more legumes, fruit and vegetables (see "III. Justice for the people of Europe" section)[22]. It is a single systemic change: only the combination of transforming production and consumption keeps the economic impact manageable.

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[21] Strategic Dialogue on the Future of EU Agriculture (2024), A shared prospect for farming and food in Europe: Report of the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of EU Agriculture, European Commission, September 2024. https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/document/download/171329ff-0f50-4fa5-946f-aea11032172e_en?filename=strategic-dialogue-report-2024_en.pdf

[22] Poux, X. & Aubert, P.-M. (2018), An agroecological Europe in 2050: multifunctional agriculture for healthy eating. Findings from the Ten Years For Agroecology (TYFA) modelling exercise, IDDRI Study N°09/18; and Schiavo, M., Le Mouël, C., Poux, X. & Aubert, P.-M. (2021), An agroecological Europe by 2050: What impact on land use, trade and global food security?, IDDRI Study N°08/21. The 2018 study models an agroecological Europe in 2050 with healthier diets and finds that Europe can feed itself healthily and keep export capacity despite a production decline of about 35% (in kcal) compared with 2010. The 2021 study tests the trade and global food security effects and shows that without the dietary shift, an agroecological transition risks increasing reliance on imports.

III. Justice for the people of Europe

Catholic social teaching holds that the goods of the earth are intended by God for the whole human family — what Catholic tradition calls the universal destination of goods. Private ownership and public spending alike are legitimate only insofar as they serve this wider purpose: they are stewardship of a common inheritance, not an end in themselves. A CAP financed by all Europeans must serve all Europeans — delivering healthy, affordable food, holding decision-makers accountable for how public money is spent, and ensuring that the resources entrusted to this policy return their fruits to the common good, not merely to those best placed to claim them.

1. Public money for public good

CAP is the biggest policy of the EU; one third of the EU's budget goes into farming subsidies[23]. Spending of this scale demands democratic scrutiny to match it — yet the shift of responsibility to Member States risks weakening precisely the transparency and oversight that make such scrutiny possible.

The CAP's purpose ought to be to deliver healthy food to the people of Europe while providing a livelihood for farmers instead of merely supporting those who farm on the most hectares. **We ask for meaningful, impact-based performance indicators** — particularly on biodiversity, pesticide use and nutrient balance — so that results are judged by what actually happens on the land, not by procedural compliance. **National strategic plans[24] should ensure transparency, democratic participation and rule-of-law adherence to be eligible for payment support:** the Commission's observation letters should clearly distinguish binding requirements from non-binding comments and be made public, and plan approval should be postponed until legal compliance is demonstrated. Finally, we ask to ensure that rules on farm stewardship, social conditionality and protective practices outlined in the Annex[25] are viable and deliver the outcomes for resilient and just farming in Europe.

[23] €293.7 billion ring-fenced budget for CAP income support and €453 billion funding from the non-ringfenced part of the NRPF. European Parliament (December 2025). BRIEFING EU Legislation in Progress

[24] European Commission. (n.d.). CAP strategic plans. https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/cap-my-country/cap-strategic-plans_en

[25] European Commission (2025), ANNEXES to the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the conditions for the implementation of the Union support to the Common Agriculture Policy for the period from 2028 to 2034. https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?format=PDF&uri=cellar%3A5b8a638c-62f9-11f0-bf4e-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02%2FDOC_2

2. A CAP supporting sustainable European diets

The 2020 withdrawn Farm to Fork Strategy[26] recognised the interlinkages between healthy food, healthy people and a healthy planet with a need to rebalance diets[27]. The EU's own Joint Research Centre monitoring framework reinforces this link[28], identifying high consumption of red meat, highly processed foods, sugar and salt, alongside insufficient consumption of plant foods, as dietary risk factors for non-communicable diseases. These diseases are responsible for an estimated 90% of deaths in the EU, with the burden falling hardest on those least able to afford healthier alternatives. The CAP is far from the only lever here, but as a once-in-a-decade reform, it remains a decisive one: what gets funded shapes what gets produced and then eaten.

Today, that funding is badly skewed, with roughly 80% going to animal-based production[29], despite legumes, fruit and vegetables carrying one of the lowest environmental footprints in agriculture and being a crucial element of a healthy diet. **We ask the CAP to correct this imbalance concretely so that healthy food becomes more affordable and to help facilitate a transition toward more plant-based diets:** within the CAP budget and especially the Coupled-Income Support, a higher, and defined minimum share should be earmarked specifically for fruits, vegetables and legumes, especially for direct human consumption. This should be paired with nutrition-sensitive indicators built into national strategic plans, so that CAP instruments actively help build supply chains for healthy, sustainable diets rather than merely avoiding harm.

Conclusion

The CAP is, ultimately, a contract between European society and those who farm its land. But for that contract to deliver lasting food security and prosperity, it must be grounded in a wider covenant between farmers, the land, and animals they steward. Public policy should strengthen this relationship, not undermine it by rewarding practices that deplete the resources on which agriculture depends. The next CAP should therefore align public support with long-term stewardship: ensuring fair incomes for farmers, robust protection for nature and animal welfare, and healthy food for people across Europe. This is how the CAP can become an instrument of justice — for farmers, for the living world and for future generations.

[26] European Commission. (2020). Farm to Fork Strategy. https://food.ec.europa.eu/horizontal-topics/farm-fork-strategy_en

[27] Rockström J, Thilsted S, Willett W et al. (2025). The EAT–Lancet Commission on healthy, sustainable, and just food systems. The Lancet. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(25)01201-2

[28] Tóth, K., Acs, S., Aschberger, K., Barbero Vignola, G., Bopp, S., Caivano, A., Catarino, R., Dominguez Torreiro, M., Druon, J.-N., De Laurentiis, V., Di Marcantonio, F., De Jong, B., Ermolli, M., Guerrero, I., Gurria, P., Leite, J., Liquete, C., Maffettone, R., M'Barek, R., … Proietti, I. (2024). EU food system monitoring framework: From concepts to indicators. Publications Office of the European Union. https://doi.org/10.2760/94456

[29] European Commission. (2024, May 22). The European Health Union: Acting together for people's health (COM(2024) 206 final). https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52024DC0206

[30] Kortleve, A.J., Mogollón, J.M., Harwatt, H. et al. Over 80% of the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy supports emissions-intensive animal products. Nat Food 5, 288–292 (2024). https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-024-00949-4

Glossary

Term	Definition
AECAs (Agri-Environmental and Climate Actions)	Payments to farmers who commit to environmental, climate or animal-welfare practices that go beyond the basic rules.
Area-based income support	Payments calculated mainly on the land a farmer manages (per hectare), rather than on what is produced or how.
Capping	An upper limit on the support one farm can receive, proposed at €100,000 per year.
Conditionality / farm stewardship	The baseline rules that every farmer must respect to receive payments, such as protecting soil, grassland and water, and complying with EU environmental and animal-welfare laws. The proposal rebrands "conditionality" as "farm stewardship".
Coupled income support	Payments linked to growing or raising specific products, such as protein crops, fruit and vegetables, or livestock.
DABIS (Degressive Area-Based Income Support)	The Commission's proposed basic per-hectare payment, set so that the amount per hectare falls as the farm gets bigger.
Degressivity	The gradual reduction of payments as farm size or total support rises.
Extensification	Farming less intensively, for example fewer animals per hectare, more grazing and more outdoor access.
Integrated pest management	Managing pests by prevention and non-chemical methods first, with pesticides as a last resort.
National and Regional Partnership Plans	The plans through which each Member State will spend EU funds, including the CAP, replacing the 2023–27 CAP Strategic Plans.
Nitrate-vulnerable zones	Areas where water is polluted or at risk from agricultural nitrates, and where stricter limits on manure and stocking density already apply.
Non-regression clause	A legal guarantee that standards cannot fall below their current level.
Ring-fencing	Reserving a minimum share of a budget for a given purpose, so it cannot be spent on something else.
Starter pack	The package of support Member States must offer to help young farmers enter and settle in farming.
Strategic Dialogue	The 2024 EU-wide dialogue between farming, food, environmental and civil-society organisations on the future of EU agriculture. Its final report is a reference point in the CAP debate.
Transition payment	A lump sum of up to €200,000 per farm, paid for carrying out an approved plan to move to more sustainable and resilient production.
Universal destination of goods	The principle in Catholic social teaching that the earth's goods are meant for all people, so property and public spending must ultimately serve the common good.


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