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**“ INNOVATIVE AGRICULTURAL TECHNIQUES TO BOOST  
ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS OF FUTURE FARMERS”  
FARMERS FOR  
FUTURE**

**ERASMUS+ PARTNERSHIPS  
PROJECT 2020-1-IT01-KA202-008505**

**IEK KAVALAS, GREECE**

# What is the European policy (CAP) regarding pollution in agriculture?

Launched in 1962, the EU's common agricultural policy (CAP) is a partnership between agriculture and society, and between Europe and its farmers. It aims to:

- support farmers and improve agricultural productivity, ensuring a stable supply of affordable food;
- safeguard European Union farmers to make a reasonable living;
- help tackle climate change and the sustainable management of natural resources;
- maintain rural areas and landscapes across the EU;
- keep the rural economy alive by promoting jobs in farming, agri-food industries and associated sectors.

The CAP is a common policy for all EU countries. It is managed and funded at European level from the resources of the EU's budget.

## The CAP in practice

Farming is unlike most other businesses, as the following special considerations apply:

- despite the importance of food production, farmers' income is around 40% lower compared to non-agricultural income;
- agriculture depends more on the weather and the climate than many other sectors;
- there is an inevitable time gap between consumer demand and farmers being able to supply – growing more wheat or producing more milk inevitably takes time.

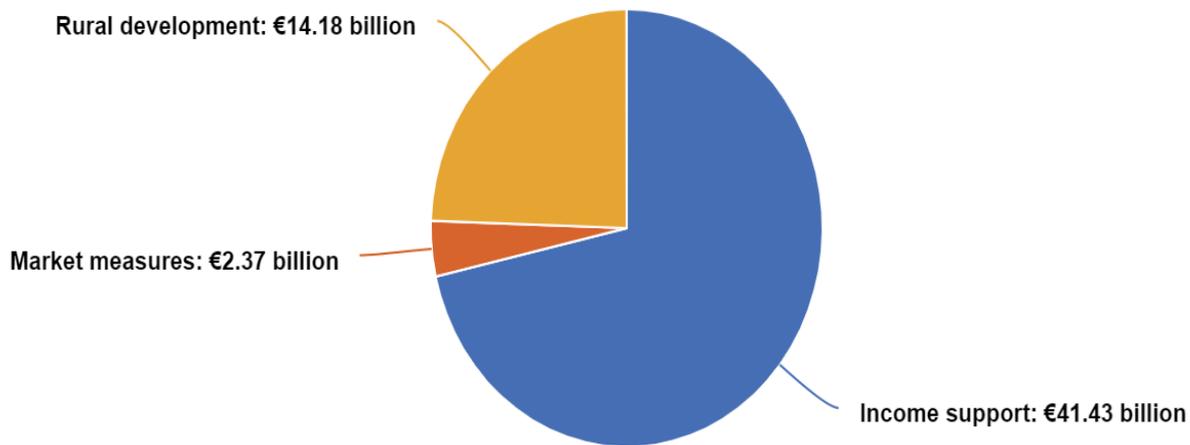


While being cost-effective, farmers should work in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner, and maintain our soils and biodiversity.

Business uncertainties and the environmental impact of farming justify the significant role that the public sector plays for our farmers. The CAP takes action with the following measures:

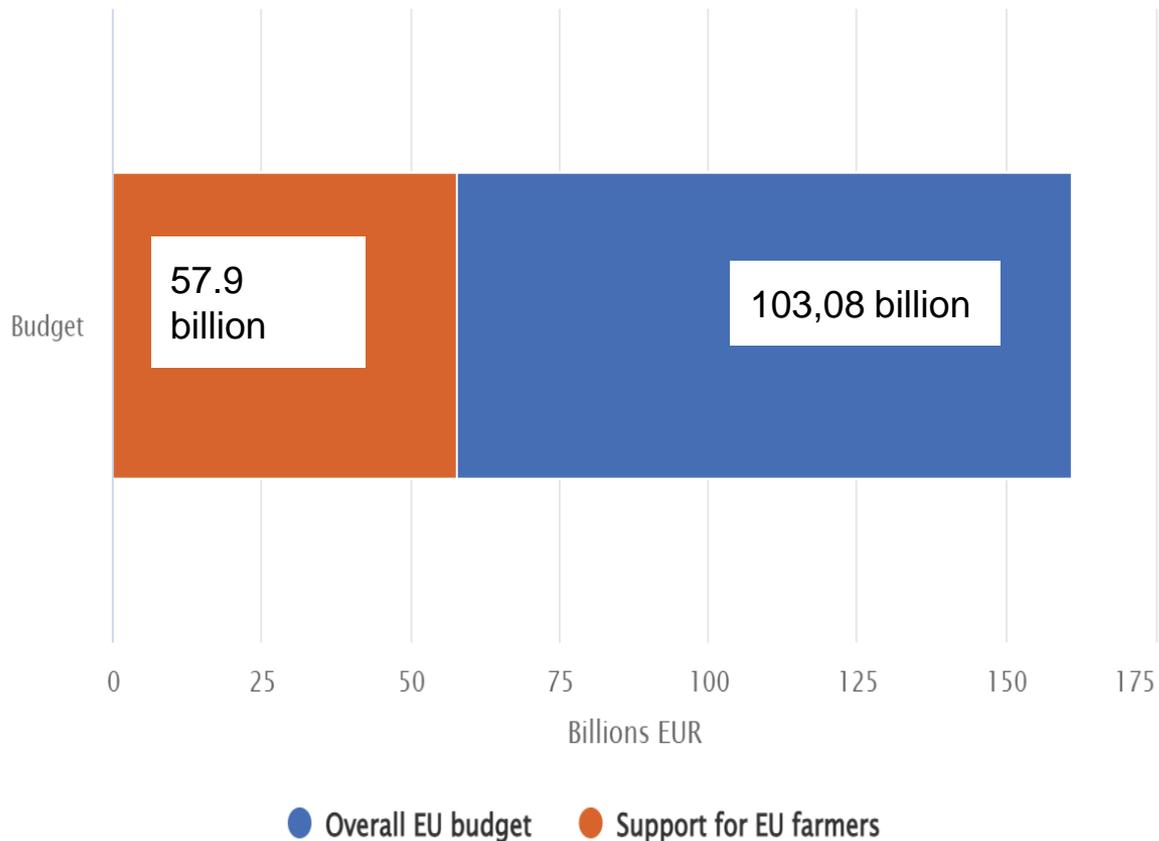
- [income support](#) through direct payments ensures income stability, and remunerates farmers for environmentally friendly farming and delivering public services not normally paid for by the markets, such as taking care of the countryside;
- [market measures](#) to deal with difficult market situations such as a sudden drop in demand due to a health scare, or a fall in prices as a result of a temporary oversupply on the market;
- [rural development measures](#) with national and regional programmes to address the specific needs and challenges facing rural areas.

The EU supports farmers with €57.98 billion in 2019



The level of support for EU farmers from the overall EU budget reflects the many variables involved in ensuring continued access to high quality food, which includes functions such as income support to farmers, climate change action, and maintaining vibrant rural communities.

## Support for EU farmers from overall EU budget in 2019



The CAP is financed through two funds as part of the EU budget:

- the [European agricultural guarantee fund](#) (EAGF) provides direct support and funds market measures;
- the [European agricultural fund for rural development](#) (EAFRD) finances rural development.

Payments are managed at national level by each EU country.

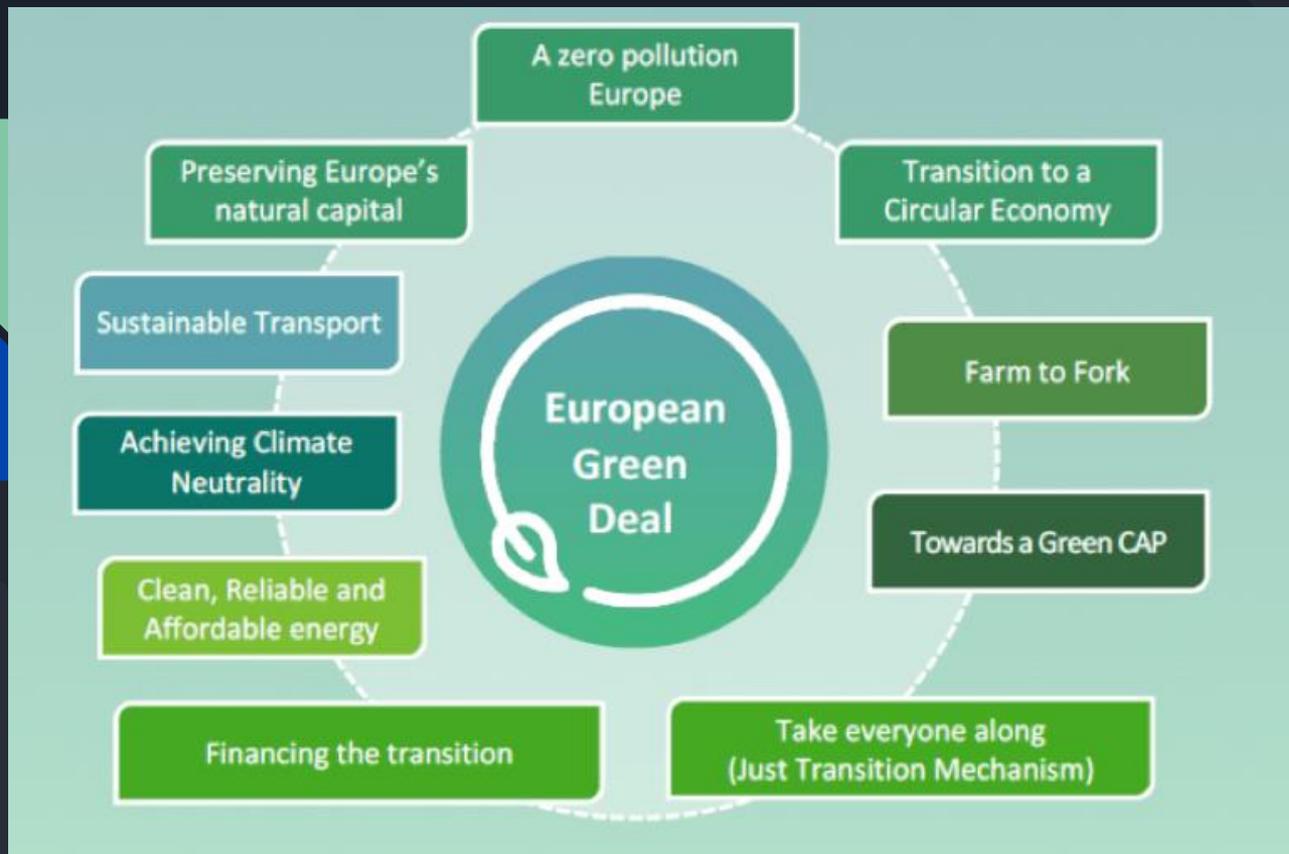
Information about the recipients of CAP payments is published by each country, in accordance with EU transparency rules.

# A greener CAP

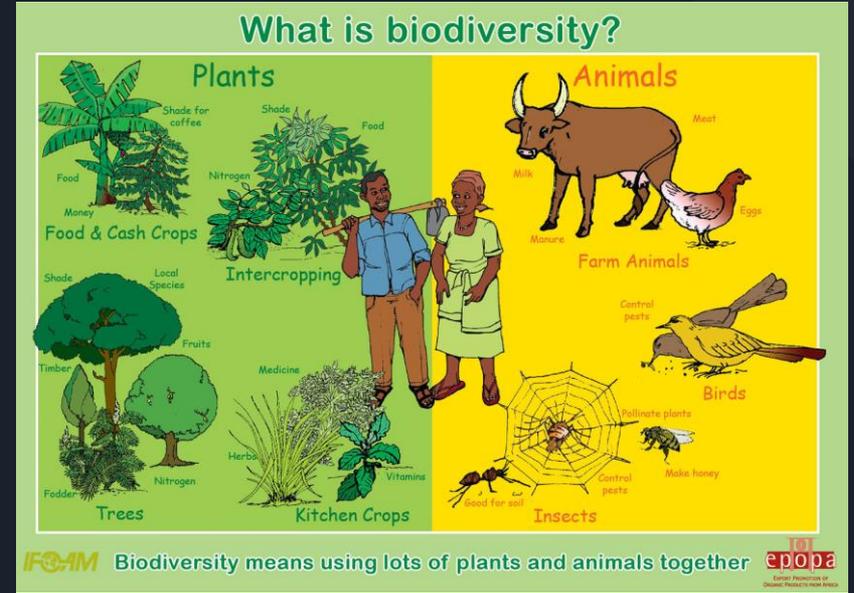
The new CAP supports agriculture in making a much stronger contribution to the goals of the European Green Deal:



**higher green ambitions:** CAP plans will be in line with environmental and climate legislation. In its CAP strategic plan, each EU country will be obliged to display a higher ambition on environment and climate action compared to the previous programming period (no “backsliding”) and will be required to update the plan when climate and environmental legislation is modified;



**contribute to the Green Deal targets:** the national CAP strategic plans will contribute to the Green Deal targets (the CAP recommendations set out how this contribution is expected);



**enhanced conditionality:** beneficiaries of the CAP will have their payments linked to a stronger set of mandatory requirements. For example, on every farm at least 3% of arable land will be dedicated to biodiversity and non-productive elements, with a possibility to receive support via eco-schemes to achieve 7%. Wetlands and peatlands will also be protected.



**eco-schemes:** at least 25% of the budget for direct payments will be allocated to eco-schemes, providing stronger incentives for climate-and environment-friendly farming practices and approaches (such as organic farming, agro-ecology, carbon farming, etc.) as well as animal welfare improvements;



**rural development:** at least 35% of funds will be allocated to measures to support climate, biodiversity, environment and animal welfare;



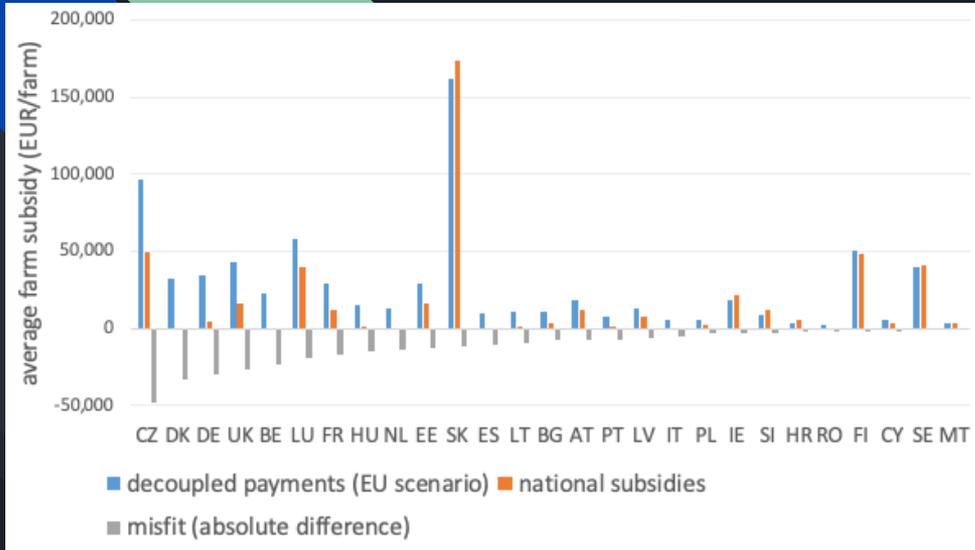
**operational programmes:** in the fruit and vegetables sector, operational programmes will allocate at least 15% of their expenditure towards the environment (compared to 10% during the current programming period);



**climate and biodiversity:** 40% of the CAP budget will have to be climate-relevant and strongly support the general commitment to dedicate 10% of the EU budget to biodiversity objectives by the end of the EU's multiannual financial framework (MFF) period.

# A fairer CAP

The new CAP directs support to those who need it most:

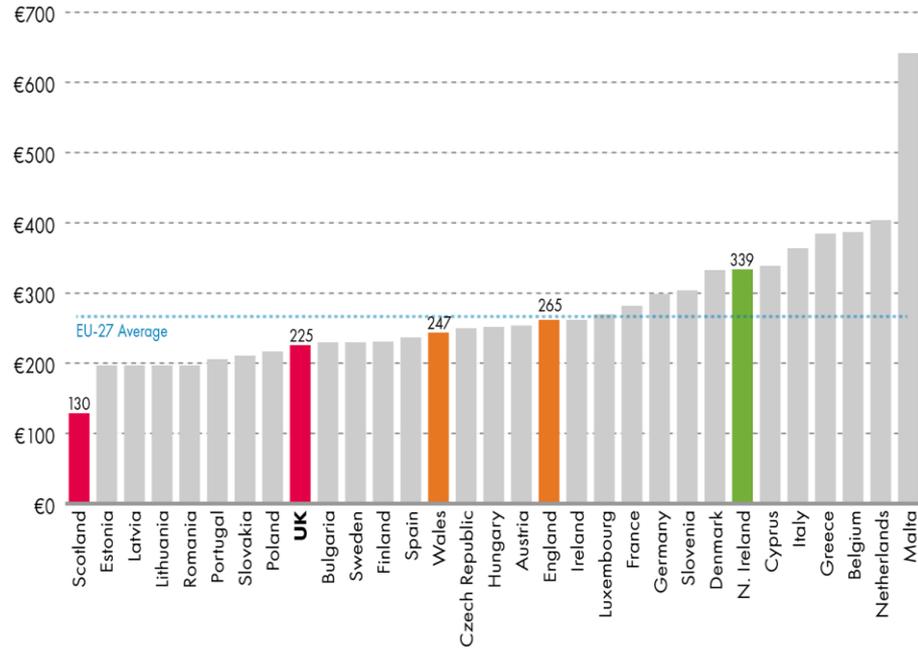


- **redistribution of income support:** EU countries will have to dedicate at least 10% of their direct payments to the redistributive income support tool, to better address the income needs of smaller and medium-sized farms;
- **active farmers:** the new legislation contains a mandatory but flexible definition of an active farmer to be established by EU countries, including the level of activities undertaken. Only active farmers may receive certain EU support;

AGRICULTURE

Others call it 'red tape'. We call it the 'backbone of EU agriculture'!

The new CAP needs  
#SocialConditionality



- **social conditionality:** CAP payments will be linked to the respect of certain EU labour standards and beneficiaries will be incentivised to improve working conditions on farms;
- **convergence of payments:** in the new CAP levels of income support will converge more, both within individual EU countries and between EU countries;



- **supporting young farmers:** EU countries will have to distribute at least 3% of their direct payments budget towards young farmers, in the form of income or investment support, or start-up aid for young farmers;
- **improving the gender balance:** gender equality and increasing the participation of women in farming are – for the first time – part of the objectives for CAP strategic plans. EU countries must assess these issues and address the identified challenges.

# Improving competitiveness

The new CAP will strengthen the position of farmers in the supply chain and boost the competitiveness of the agri-food sector:



- **improved bargaining power:** new rules will reinforce producer cooperation, encouraging farmers to work together and enabling them to create countervailing power in the market;
- **market orientation:** the new CAP maintains the overall market orientation from the previous reforms, encouraging EU farms to align supply with demand in Europe and beyond;



- **crisis reserve:** to cope with future crises, the reformed CAP includes a new financial reserve amounting to at least €450 million per year;
- **support for the wine sector:** specific rules have been agreed to improve support for the wine sector.



**thank you for watching our presentation**



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