

PUBLIC DEBATE ON THE FUTURE OF THE CAP

Questions on the rural development aspects

A. What should be the objectives of the future rural development policy?

- In the light of the future challenges for agriculture and rural areas, what should be the objectives of the rural development policy after 2013?
 - To reach comparable conditions of all EU farmers starting with equalizing the level of direct payments without transfer period and level of national payments. Also taken from the point of view of unified application and exaction of legislation via control mechanisms and harmonisation of national approaches.
 - To strenghten competetiveness of agriculture and food industry in all regions and production areas. To improve functioning of product vertical from the primary industry up to end consumers. To increase cost- effectiveness and to lower power heftiness of production.
 - To preserve adequate incomes of viable agricultural businesses and to lessen social-economic differences between regions.
 - To minimize differences between rural and urban areas in terms of quality of life, services offer and infrastructure.
 - To support developement of infrastructure and public amenities and preservation and protection of natural and cultural heritage, thus increasing attractiveness of rural areas
 - To balance productive and non-productive functions of agriculture and to value public goods provided by agriculture.
 - To secure essential support for public goods, such as landscape cultivation, biodiversity preservation, agricultural land erosion protection, land and water high quality and accesibility maintenance, climate change mitigation, floods preventing measures.
 - To strenghten the ability of agricultural production to adapt to negative effects of climate change and to compensate them in order to preserve food security. To support measures mitigating climate change such as complex land consolidation, agroenvironmental measures through grassland maintenance, support for ecological agriculture and conversion of arable land into grassland, afforestation, building of storage capacities for livestock excrements and manure, modernisation of structures intended for animals stabling, construction of biogas stations, biomass production and so on.
 - To sufficiently diversify economy in rural areas and secure support for non-agricultural activities. To strenghten favourable conditions for entrepreneurship and for wider spectra of activities in rural areas generally.
 - To secure long term perspectives of businesses in agriculture and connected industries.
 - To increase and maintain stable level of employment rate in rural areas.

- To labour all the aspects of agricultural production use in the area of renewable resources and energetics. To take into account the potential of agricultural sector and all the connected fields in terms of power supply from renewable resources.
- To preserve and widen support measures aimed at improving spatial and age structure of forests and undesirably changed species composition of forests.
- To reconsider provision of financial sources from forestry machinery acquisition in favour of development of forest infrastructure.
- What place should rural development occupy, within the future CAP and alongside the other EU policies, to make a meaningful contribution to the future EU priorities?
 - Sustainable rural development is an integral part of CAP and its position within CAP after 2013 must be determined.
 - The role of rural areas must be defined including all the linkages to national economy.
 - More effective coordination of rural development policy with other policies must be achieved on the European as well as on national level.

B. How can the policy instruments be made more effective?

- How can support be better targeted to bring about the most efficient allocation of resources, and thus to maximize the added value of the policy in pursuit of the future EU priorities?
 - An analysis of current state of play, needs and available resources has to be done. Existing methods and outcomes of rural development policy need to be re-examined.
 - To allow subjects who are active in the area of rural development to participate in decision making process as well as in the process of targeting support into rural regions.
- In the light of experience to date, is the existing toolkit of measures adequate for meeting the policy objectives? What role should be played by Leader in the future?
 - It is vital to preserve and further develop rural subjects' engagement in rural development policy via LEADER initiative.
- How can we develop and improve evaluation methods and the underlying common indicators to best assess policy impact and render results visible without putting too much burden on Member States and beneficiaries?
 - By sharing of information and examples of good practice methods of evaluation, and methods of data collection necessary for effectiveness evaluation.
 - Through lowering the number of common evaluation questions, better linkage between evaluation questions and indicators.

- Assessment of mandatory data collection heftiness and effectiveness of their usage during impact assessment has to be done.

C. How can the management of the policy be improved?

- How can the policy be better managed, including better coordination with other policies for the purpose of ensuring a coherent approach in rural areas?
 - To separate supports for agricultural activities as such (1st pillar and part of 2nd pillar) from supports aimed at rural development (rest of 2nd pillar). Eventual disproportion of these two allocated supports in between member states can affect the competitiveness of agricultural and food production.
 - Unified approach towards rural development allocations determination based on objective criteria is needed.
 - By determination of effective rural development tools and means of distribution financial resources without affecting principals of financial management.
- In what ways can both content and delivery be simplified, so as to facilitate implementation and empower local actors, without compromising the objectives of the policy and sound financial management?
 - It is necessary to lower administrative burden in agriculture, food industry and other related fields not only during all subsidy provision process but also during controls in food production businesses. Also legislation and controls on national level throughout the whole food chain need to be harmonised.