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REPORT

on EU agriculture and climate change
(2009/2157(INI))

Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

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MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

on EU agriculture and climate change
(2009/2157(INI))

The European Parliament,

– having regard to the Commission staff working document entitled 'Adapting to climate change: the challenge for European agriculture and rural areas' (SEC(2009)0417),

– having regard to the Commission staff working document entitled 'The role of European agriculture in climate change mitigation' (SEC(2009)1093),

– having regard to its legislative resolution of 14 November 2007 on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the protection of soil and amending Directive 2004/35/EC[1],

– having regard to its resolution of 12 March 2008 on sustainable agriculture and biogas: a need for review of EU legislation[2],

– having regard to its resolution of 4 February 2009 entitled '2050: The future begins today – recommendations for the EU's future integrated policy on climate change'[3],

– having regard to its resolution of 12 March 2009 on 'the challenge of deterioration of agricultural land in the EU and in particular in southern Europe: the response through EU agricultural policy instruments'[4],

– having regard to its resolution of 25 November 2009 on the EU strategy for the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change (COP 15)[5],

– having regard to the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology (IAASTD) report drawn up by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation and the World Bank and signed by 58 countries,

– having regard to Rule 48 of its Rules of Procedure,

– having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the opinion of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (A7-0060/2010),

A. whereas the climate change caused by the historical build-up of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere is a scientifically established fact that may have a serious impact on ecosystems,

[1] OJ C 282E, 6.11.2008, p. 281.
[2] OJ C 66 E, 20.3.2009, p. 29.
[3] OJ C 67 E, 18.3.2010, p. 44.
[4] Texts adopted of that date, P6_TA(2009)0130.
[5] Texts adopted of that date, P6_TA(2009)0089.

B. whereas agriculture is directly affected, since it is one of the many economic activities that manage natural resources for the benefit of humankind,

C. whereas climate change poses one of the most serious threats not only to the environment, but to the economy and society as well, with crop yields fluctuating from one year to the next, heavily influenced by the variation in extreme climate conditions, which has an implicit impact on every sector of the economy, although agriculture remains the most vulnerable,

D. whereas agriculture, as one of the main sources of two major GHGs (nitrous oxide and methane) which are generated by various biological processes linked to agricultural production is contributing to climate change while also being very vulnerable to its adverse impact,

E. whereas GHG emissions from agriculture (including livestock farming) declined by 20% in the EU-27 between 1999 and 2007 and the proportion of the Union's GHG emissions produced by agriculture dropped from 11% in 1990 to 9.3% in 2007, inter alia as a result of the increased efficiency of EU agriculture, constant innovations and the use of new techniques, the more effective use of fertilisers and the recent reforms of the CAP,

F. whereas agriculture and forestry are the main economic sectors able to capture the CO_2 produced by human activities, to accumulate and store it in the soil by acting as sinks, and to fix it in plants through photosynthesis; whereas these sectors consequently have considerable potential to make a positive contribution to global warming mitigation efforts,

G. whereas climate change is already having adverse effects on EU agriculture (including declining water resources, brackishness and more frequent drought, desertification, a significant increase in winter rainfall and flooding in the north, threats to low-lying coastal areas from rising sea levels and the danger of salination, storms and other extreme weather events, erosion and landslides and the proliferation of insect pests and animal and plant diseases), and whereas the expected acceleration of such problems could have serious economic, social and environmental repercussions for the agricultural, forestry and tourism sectors,

H. whereas the agricultural sector is capable both of adapting and of mitigating climate change with the help of farmers' know-how, a strong CAP and research and innovation developments but, since the natural processes involved are difficult to deal with, a great deal of effort must be made,

I. whereas European agriculture constitutes a pool of jobs which should be protected and expanded,

J. whereas agriculture remains vital to the continuance of human activity in European rural areas, inter alia because of the wide range of services which farmers can provide for the rest of society,

K. whereas the Union's objectives for the development of renewable energies have a direct bearing on agriculture, and whereas this development can help substantially to reduce GHG emissions,

L. whereas one of the primary functions of EU agriculture is to feed the Union's population,

M. whereas the Union should be a leader in the fight against global warming,

Contribution of EU agriculture to global warming mitigation efforts

1. Affirms that EU agriculture and forestry can contribute to achieving the Union's climate change mitigation objectives by finding ways and support to help reduce its GHG emissions, promoting CO_2 sequestration in the soil, developing the production of sustainable renewable energies, and maximising the photosynthesis function; emphasises that, to this end, it is essential to foster the development of an agriculture producing tradable and non tradable goods which exploit the potential and natural resources of each ecosystem as efficiently as possible and which reconcile economic, environmental and social performance as well as animal welfare imperatives so as to improve its sustainability;

2. Considers that, if agriculture is to be more actively involved in the global process of curbing climate change, care must be taken to ensure that the competitive position of the EU's agri-foodstuffs sector in the world market does not suffer;

3. Takes the view that organic farming, extensive grazing and integrated pest management practices are among the ecologically effective systems needing further development; emphasises, however, the need to find ways to facilitate a transition to more sustainable agriculture in the case of the other systems used on most farmland;

4. Recognises that innovation has a major role to play in reducing the impact agriculture has on climate change and in lowering its environmental impact;

5. Calls, in particular, for the future CAP to encourage – through the provision of information, training and incentives – practices that contribute to improving the efficiency of agriculture and its potential to reduce GHG emissions, and to improving carbon sequestration, including:

   – simplified, appropriate cultivation techniques that provide plant cover (such as reduced or no-tillage and leaving crop residues on the ground) and facilitate intercropping and crop rotation, thereby maximising photosynthesis and helping to enrich the soil with organic matter, as demonstrated by the SoCo project launched at the European Parliament's instigation;

   – the preservation and development of afforestation, reforestation, agroforestry, hedges, wooded areas on farmland, permanent or temporary grassland pasture systems and reforestation;

– the introduction of farming methods which will increase the carbon storage period in existing forests;

– better management of soil and of minerals and appropriate protection of carbon-rich land (peatland) and wetlands (growing suitable crops, such as reeds, as an alternative to drainage);

– farm modernisation (building insulation, energy-efficient equipment and the use of renewable energies) and more efficient production chains;

– modern techniques of feeding, animal keeping and manure treatment and use, which will significantly reduce methane emissions;

– the use of biomass energy integrated into food production, which will contribute to reducing CO_2 emissions in addition to making use of by-products and waste;

– the planting of woody and herbaceous energy crops (cultures) in floodplains, areas which are wet or sandy and areas less suitable for agriculture, with the aim of increasing CO_2 absorption and carbon sequestration;

6. Emphasises that, as well as being more environmentally friendly, such farming practices have a positive impact in terms of improved biodiversity and soil quality, water retention and efforts to combat erosion and pollution and that mitigating the effects of farming activity on climate change is another of the 'public goods' provided by agriculture;

7. Recommends introducing a common European forestry policy that promotes sustainable forestry management and production and does more to tap the potential and the economic development of this industry, which is the one that makes the greatest contribution to carbon capture, as this sector makes the greatest contribution to carbon capture; this policy should pay maximum attention to the different regional conditions for forestry, because there are different opportunities and threats for forest environments in northern and southern Europe;

8. Points out that forests also make a significant contribution to efficient water management. Member States must therefore be encouraged to undertake forest management which will reduce differences in the water regime between periods of drought and flood, thereby reducing the negative effects of droughts and floods on agriculture, energy production and the population;

9. Recommends stepping up policies on mountain regions, as the pasturing and stock-breeding industries have a particularly important role to play in mitigating climate change and in helping to adjust and reduce vulnerability, particularly by means of proper management of pastureland;

10. Recommends that strategies be devised for preventing and mitigating the adverse consequences for agriculture in the European Union through:

– an action plan for the most affected areas: using certain plant varieties which are resistant to the new climate conditions, adapting the calendar of farming activities to the new conditions, forestation, building greenhouses, managing water resources for agriculture and making polluted land more environmentally friendly;

– the other measure should be a plan for the future aimed at eliminating the causes of climate change by promoting a global economy based on reduced CO_2 emissions, combined with the promotion of energy security;

11. Emphasises that nitrous oxide emissions can be cut by making more effective use of nitrogen fertilisers (precision farming); also points out that fertilisation using the residual mass from biogas production provides opportunities for organic precision fertilisation and thus the reduction of emissions;

12. Calls for research on livestock feed and genetic selection of farm animals to be stepped up with a view to reducing methane emissions, provided that such mitigation measures are not adopted if they jeopardise animal health or welfare; also calls for an information programme to educate consumers about the impact of their purchasing and eating behaviour on the climate;

13. Urges also that action should be taken to speed up and step up research into plant breeding to make crops and plants better able to withstand new climatic conditions and to be able to meet the challenges posed by climate change, particularly with regard to requiring that a suitable quantity of good-quality raw materials, and therefore a secure food supply, is maintained; considers that this research should as a matter of priority relate to plant varieties which tolerate water stress and extremely high temperatures, and the relevant crop techniques; stresses also that these varieties and techniques could offer a viable alternative to the current costly and inefficient irrigation systems in some areas, and that they also offer the advantage of being more acceptable to local communities;

14. Emphasises that optimised storage – and the application – of organic fertiliser and the processing of such fertiliser in anaerobic digesters are currently some of the most promising ways of reducing methane emissions (whilst also providing a source of renewable energy) and reducing dependence on chemical nitrogen fertilisers, particularly in regions characterised by high-density livestock farming; considers that this biogas helps make agriculture self-sufficient in energy;

15. Draws attention, in this context, to the need to be able to use digestate from manure fermentation installations for biogas production as a substitute for artificial fertiliser without its falling into the category of ‘livestock manure’, so that the use of artificial fertiliser can be further reduced;

16. Calls for the speeding up of administrative simplification and of research and development work on the exploitation and utilisation of biomass found on farms (farm

and forest waste), biogas from livestock farming and other sustainable agrofuels, provided that the latter do not jeopardise food security;

17. Stresses that the principle of sustainability must be enforced when using biomass; considers therefore that its use as close as possible to the place of production of the agricultural raw materials must be encouraged as this would reduce energy loss caused by transport;

18. Points out that the use of biomass for heating might significantly reduce the harmful impact of climate change, and therefore calls on the Commission and the Member States to award rural development funding to rural public institutions switching to heating systems based on bioenergy;

19. Stresses that more extensive use of ICT could improve the monitoring of several phases of production and improve their management in order to increase production in relation to the use of the means of production and, simultaneously, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption; stresses, likewise, that the more extensive use of ICT, the integration of policies to promote training for farmers in new technologies and support for innovation and entrepreneurship among young farmers in particular are key topics, with a view both to making farming more environmentally sustainable and making the sector more competitive;

20. Emphasises that the Union's position as the leading importer of agricultural produce results in a higher carbon cost than that generated by European farms, owing to the lower environmental standards often found in non-EU countries, coupled with long-distance transport emissions and deforestation; takes the view that there is a need to inform consumers, by means of a targeted communication strategy, of the benefits of a healthy, balanced diet made up of high-quality regional and seasonal items produced by a sustainable and efficient agriculture, the carbon footprint of which could be differentiated from those of imported products; takes the view also that there is a need to compensate European farmers fairly for their efforts to reduce emissions, and to encourage local farms to diversify (inter alia by developing EU production of plant proteins);

21. Endorses, in this context, the idea of voluntary EU origin labelling in the case of products originating entirely within the European Union;

22. Calls for the implementation of effective control mechanisms on imports from third countries and advocates full reciprocity between the criteria that have to be met by European producers to combat climate change and the requirements applying to imports from third countries, to avoid any loss in the competitiveness of Community products;

23. Emphasises that the Union must reinvest in the rural and forestry management development policy in order to help disseminate new practices and foster the development of sustainable agriculture elsewhere in the world;

Measures to help EU agriculture adapt to the effects of global warming

24. Emphasises that EU agriculture must now adapt to the effects of the climate change currently taking place and prepare for its negative net impact on many regions of the Union;

25. Considers in this regard that the Union must develop a coherent strategy for agriculture to adapt to the two kinds of adverse climatic effects anticipated:

    – overall global warming;

    – more marked variations in climate conditions resulting in an increase in extreme weather events;

26. Takes the view that the CAP must focus on the management of resources in a more sustainable and efficient way and that this must be taken into account in the forthcoming reform of the CAP, including for example:

    – optimising water resource management (more efficient irrigation systems, use of recycled water, economical use of water on the land, hillside reservoirs, etc.), making users responsible;

    – choosing crop varieties, particularly those selected for their ability to resist extreme weather events, and practising crop rotation according to considerations such as drought and disease;

    – protecting the soil from water and wind erosion by ensuring organic matter content;

    – planting rows of trees, hedges or wooded areas on the edges of farmland to retain water, limit runoff, act as windbreaks and provide shelter for crop auxiliaries such as pollinating insects;

    – preserving pastureland and promoting animal production on pastureland;

    – monitoring and controlling disease; in this context, there is a need to develop national and European instruments to monitor outbreaks and repeat outbreaks;

    – undertaking monitoring and control of insects; in this context, monitoring of invasiveness potential and cross compliance measures concerning plant health (increased controls at borders and sensitive locations such as tree nurseries and airports, biosecurity measures) must be developed;

    – restoring damaged areas;

– maintaining forests which can adapt to climate change and managing forests in such a way as to limit the risk of fire;

27. Emphasises that it may be necessary to re-think the water management, including river regulation, of former floodplain areas with unfavourable growing conditions which were subsequently drained, revitalise suitable floodplain areas and replant former floodplain forests;

Implications for the European agricultural model

28. Emphasises that the CAP will have to contribute to a more sustainable agricultural policy, whilst at the same time increasing yields and bearing in mind that global warming may jeopardise world food production capacity, including in Europe;

29. Takes the view, likewise, that the CAP should provide financial incentives for local authorities in the Member States to take measures aimed at:

– restoring the production and protection capacities of natural ecosystems, agricultural crops and other assets that are affected by drought and desertification or flooding;

– improving practices with regard to the use of water resources, soil and vegetation which have proved to be unsustainable over time;

– identifying, improving and promoting plant species and animal breeds in areas affected by drought and/or at risk of aridity;

– improving preventive measures;

30. Notes that climate change has a direct and disproportionately harmful impact on agriculture, which must therefore be given priority when measures are drawn up to mitigate the effects of climate change;

31. Takes the view that the 'new challenges' referred to in the CAP Health Check, i.e. climate change, water management, renewable energies and biodiversity, should be reiterated and respect for and improvement of the quality of the soil and its functions (carbon capture, retention capacity of water and mineral elements, biological life...) should also be added to these challenges as all these are major issues affecting the interests of future generations, and should be further taken into account in the future CAP;

32. Notes that the current cross-compliance system, which was designed to ensure that agricultural producers meet very high standards in terms of animal welfare, animal health and environmental protection, has been problematic for farmers and has, in its current form, perhaps not been the best means of achieving the desired outcomes; calls, in the context of the next reform of the CAP, for greater emphasis on more sustainable and more efficient production models, bearing in mind that these require public funding to enable

farmers to cover the extra costs arising from the supply of 'public goods' of benefit to the whole of society (such as the preservation of rural areas, biodiversity conservation, carbon capture and food security);

33. Recognises that the CAP needs to set world-leading standards in environmental protection; points out that this will mean a level of cost which cannot be recovered from the market, although in part that can be regarded as delivery of public goods, and that European producers will need protection from third-country competition which does not meet EU environmental standards;

34. Takes the view that climate change is forcing the Union to adapt the agricultural policy model; consequently calls on the Commission, in its future communication on CAP reform after 2013, to promote a more sustainable and efficient agricultural model in line with all the aims of the CAP, geared to producing sufficient, safe food and more respectful of environmental balance; such a model must be based on a fair and legitimate farmer support system and must also enhance the role of the farming profession;

35. Considers that, to enable European agriculture to contribute in future to food security and climate protection, an ambitious CAP must be maintained, including in particular the system of direct payments from the Community budget and simplified and fair payments for the EU as a whole;

36. Calls therefore on the Commission , in reforming the Common Agricultural Policy, to bear in mind that southern EU Member States are disproportionately affected as a result not only of the direct impact of climate change but also of its indirect impact on the scope for diversification, given that diversification is a decisive factor for developing the necessary adaptability, limiting the degree of vulnerability and narrowing regional differences;

37. Stresses the importance of creating and permanently guaranteeing the basis for the development of alternative economic activities that will gradually reduce local communities' dependence on drought-affected agricultural production or on natural resources; takes the view that access to financing from European funds is a key factor in safeguarding the conditions in which alternative economic activities are carried out;

38. Stresses the importance of promoting integrated development planning practices in rural areas in line with local needs, by introducing principles based on optimising land use in order to adapt to changing environmental conditions (prolonged drought, landslides, floods, etc.) and to the market for products and services that can be supplied at local level;

39. Also calls on the Commission to give thought to new support systems that support the contribution which farming makes to reducing CO_2, such as carbon fixing in farm soil and biomass, and that encourage agricultural use of areas that make a positive contribution to climate change;

40. Stresses the need for accurate Commission estimates of the costs of adapting agriculture to climate change;

41. Considers it essential to strengthen risk and crisis management instruments and adapt them to increasing market volatility and growing climatic risks;

42. Emphasises, given the scale of the climate challenge and investment, that the farming and forestry management community must focus on more sustainable modes of production and there is a need to retain a strong CAP with a commensurate budget beyond 2013; adds that provision must be made for new additional funding to be used to provide incentives to disseminate modern and innovative technologies and systems which can achieve practical results in terms of mitigation and adjustment in the various sectors of agriculture

43. Stresses that, although the CAP is not a European climate policy, it must nevertheless be the basis for the introduction of effective instruments and incentives to combat climate change, something which should also be borne in mind when discussing the future of the EU budget;

44. Takes the view that the European Union should maintain its leading position in the battle against climate change, and that it should not slip to number two as a result of the current economic difficulties;

45. Stresses that the European Union needs development and financing policies for agriculture that guarantee safe and high-quality food;

46. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Member States' governments and parliaments.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Climate change is an irrefutable fact. Global average temperatures have risen by nearly 0.8°C in a century, and most scientists expect global warming to speed up further by the end of the 21st century as a result of the historical build-up of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere. The IPCC estimates that temperatures will increase by between 1.1°C (best-case scenario) and 6.4°C, with numerous adverse effects on ecosystems, on a scale difficult to imagine at present.

Agriculture is directly affected, since it manages the land resources necessary to human survival.

It is responsible for a percentage of GHG emissions while also being very vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Agriculture accounts for 9% of the EU's GHG emissions, and the effects of global warming are already being felt, most notably increased drought in southern countries and the rising sea level in northern countries.

However, agriculture can also contribute to solving these problems. It has considerable potential to play an active, positive role in global warming mitigation efforts as part of a strong common agricultural policy geared to sustainable and economically viable development. It is also capable of adapting to the effects of the changes taking place, with the help of farmers' know-how, vocational training, the farm advisory system and research and innovation developments.

Agriculture's responsibility for climate change

According to the European Environment Agency, agriculture accounted for 9.3% of total GHG emissions in the EU-27 in 2007 (including 5% of nitrous oxide emissions and 4.3% of methane emissions, but only a minimal proportion of CO_2 emissions), compared with 11% in 1990.

Nitrous oxide (N_2O) is emitted by organic and mineral nitrogen fertilisers, while methane (CH_4) comes primarily from livestock digestive processes and the storage and application of liquid manure.

The drop in agricultural emissions recorded in the EU since 1990 is the result of smaller herds, more sustainable fertiliser use and better manure management.

EU agriculture's contribution to mitigation efforts

– Internal aspects

EU agriculture can make a threefold contribution to the Union's global warming mitigation objectives: finding ways to limit and reduce its own GHG emissions, promoting carbon storage in the soil and developing the production of sustainable renewable energies. To this end, it is essential to foster the development of a different kind of agriculture better able to

reconcile economic, social and environmental imperatives with the natural potential of each ecosystem.

- Soil conservation with a view to reducing and storing CO_2 emissions:

Agriculture and forestry are the main economic sectors able to capture the CO_2 produced by human activities, to accumulate and store carbon in the soil by acting as reservoirs, and to fix carbon in plants through photosynthesis.

The CAP must therefore encourage farming practices that limit GHG emissions and/or improve carbon fixation.

Organic farming and integrated pest management practices are among the ecologically effective systems necessitating further development. However, ways must also be found to facilitate a transition to more sustainable agriculture in the case of the other systems used on most farmland.

Such solutions do exist. In particular, the CAP must take account of experiments showing that practices (such as conservation farming) involving simplified cultivation techniques (such as reduced or no-tillage and leaving crop residues on the ground) provide plant cover and facilitate intercropping and crop rotation, thereby maximising photosynthesis and helping to enrich the soil with organic matter. This has been demonstrated, *inter alia*, by the SoCo project launched at the European Parliament's instigation. Such practices also have an economic benefit insofar as they reduce the use of energy and of certain inputs.

Additional solutions that should be encouraged include:
– the development of agroforestry, hedges, wooded areas on farmland, permanent or temporary grassland pasture systems and reforestation;
– the development of permanent pasture and areas of grass;
– protection of carbon-rich land such as peatland (through crop bans) and wetlands (by growing suitable crops, such as reeds, as an alternative to drainage);
– farm modernisation (building insulation, energy-efficient equipment and the use of renewable energies).

The future CAP should foster the development of such practices through the provision of information and training, incentive measures and investment in research, particularly given that they are also a means of limiting soil depletion, water scarcity and pollution and preserving biodiversity.

It is also time to introduce an effective forestry policy that promotes sustainable forestry management and production and does more to tap the potential of this industry, which is the one that makes the greatest contribution to carbon capture.

- Reducing methane and nitrous oxide emissions

Nitrous oxide emissions are the GHG emissions from farming with the greatest potential for reduction; they can be cut by making more limited and effective use of nitrogen fertilisers (precision farming), using organic fertilisers based on recovered waste (local biomass from

intercropping and other organic waste), developing intermediate crops such as forage legumes and identifying new varieties with superior carbon and nitrogen capture potential.

Methane emissions can be cut by improving:
– farming techniques (modified ruminant diets with increased fat rations, genetic selection, etc.). To this end, it is essential to step up research efforts and introduce a food programme that will also reduce the EU's dependence on imported plant proteins; and
– animal manure management (improving storage and crop application systems and processing such manure in biogas factories – one of the most promising ways of reducing emissions and developing renewable energies, particularly in regions characterised by high-density livestock farming).

- Renewable energy sources

The EU's objectives for the development of renewable energies have a particular bearing on agriculture.

There is a need to speed up research and development work on the exploitation and utilisation of farm biomass from farm and forest waste and livestock manure and the production of sustainable agrofuels, provided that the latter do not jeopardise food security.

– International aspects

The EU is the leading importer of agricultural produce, resulting in a higher carbon cost than that generated by European farms, owing to the lower environmental standards often found in non-EU countries coupled with long-distance transport emissions. There is a need to inform consumers by means of appropriate carbon footprint labelling, to compensate European farmers fairly for their efforts to reduce emissions, and to encourage local farms to diversify (*inter alia* by developing EU production of plant proteins).

The EU must also reinvest in the rural development policy in order to help disseminate new practices and foster the development of sustainable agriculture elsewhere in the world with a view to ensuring food security. In the fight against climate change, it also has a moral duty to all those regions that may be adversely affected by such change (drought, the rising sea level and other extreme climatic phenomena).

Measures to help farming adapt to global warming

In addition to global warming mitigation efforts, farming will have to adapt to the climate change currently taking place.

With the exception of some north European farms, experts agree that climate change will have a negative net impact on EU agriculture, especially in the south and south-east.

The CAP must encourage the main agronomic adaptation measures, namely:

- optimal water resource management (more efficient irrigation systems, hillside reservoirs, etc.);

- choosing crop varieties and practising crop rotation according to considerations such as drought and disease;
- protecting the soil from water and wind erosion by ensuring organic matter content;
- planting hedges or wooded areas on the edges of farmland to retain water, limit runoff, act as windbreaks and provide shelter for crop auxiliaries such as pollinating insects;
- monitoring and controlling insects and disease;
- managing forests in such a way as to limit the risk of fire.

Implications for the European agricultural model

The CAP will have to meet growing public demand for a more sustainable agricultural policy, while bearing in mind that global warming may jeopardise world food production capacity, including in Europe.

According to the FAO, world food production will have to increase by 70% by 2050 in order to feed 9 billion people. The CAP, like the agricultural sector elsewhere in the world, will have to produce more while showing greater respect for natural balances.

For the time being, the CAP does not address environmental issues in a consistent manner or adopt a holistic approach. The 'new challenges' of climate change, water management, renewable energies and biodiversity were not fully taken on board at the time of the CAP Health Check. They must be addressed through all the CAP instruments, not just the second-pillar subsidies.

In addition, the current cross-compliance system, which is based on a best efforts obligation rather than an obligation to achieve results, is very complicated for farmers yet inadequate as a response to environmental issues. A new approach focusing on sustainable production models should be adopted, necessitating compensatory aid to cover the extra costs arising from these objectives (local eco-certification contracts) and pay for the services rendered to society through the supply of 'public goods' (such as the preservation of rural areas, biodiversity conservation, carbon capture and food security).

Climate change is forcing us to reinvent our development model. In order to regain legitimacy in the eyes of the public and restore meaning to the farming profession, the CAP must be turned into an agricultural, food and environmental policy with fairer, more sustainable farmer support systems coupled with regulatory instruments redesigned to cope with increasing market volatility and growing health risks.

Lastly, research efforts and the budgetary resources allocated to the future PAC after 2013 must be commensurate with the scale of the climate challenge and the necessary investment in more sustainable modes of production.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	17.3.2010
Result of final vote	+: 34 –: 4 0: 4
Members present for the final vote	John Stuart Agnew, Richard Ashworth, José Bové, Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos, Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă, Michel Dantin, Paolo De Castro, Albert Deß, Diane Dodds, Herbert Dorfmann, Hynek Fajmon, Lorenzo Fontana, Iratxe García Pérez, Béla Glattfelder, Martin Häusling, Esther Herranz García, Peter Jahr, Elisabeth Jeggle, Jarosław Kalinowski, Elisabeth Köstinger, Giovanni La Via, Stéphane Le Foll, George Lyon, Gabriel Mato Adrover, Mairead McGuinness, Krisztina Morvai, James Nicholson, Rareş-Lucian Niculescu, Wojciech Michał Olejniczak, Georgios Papastamkos, Marit Paulsen, Britta Reimers, Ulrike Rodust, Giancarlo Scottà, Czesław Adam Siekierski, Alyn Smith, Csaba Sándor Tabajdi, Marc Tarabella, Janusz Wojciechowski
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Luís Paulo Alves, Spyros Danellis, Esther de Lange, Lena Ek, Véronique Mathieu, Maria do Céu Patrão Neves