

**EFFAT**

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM TRADE UNIONS

Berlin, November 2007

TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL REFORM OF THE EUROPEAN COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP)

– Berlin Declaration by the European agriculture trade unions –

The CAP needs to be made coherent with the other policy objectives in the EU and the Member States. In order for this to happen, the CAP instruments must be tailored to the goals of the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies, and the performances of the CAP in terms of employment, climate protection and preservation of natural living conditions must be improved. Workers and their trade unions should be named as important target groups in the implementation of the CAP.

The future CAP should promote sustainable agriculture. This means that employment and the preservation of social relationships in rural areas should be enshrined as central planks of the CAP, and European regulations on labour and health protection should be incorporated into the cross-compliance regulatory framework.

The future CAP must be geared more tightly to the development of rural areas, and must promote specialisations and the creation of added value, and guarantee high-quality employment which enables workers in the sector to plan their working and home lives. Future CAP aids should also be made dependent upon the degree to which this goal has been achieved.

The future CAP must make a major contribution towards the creation of a fair world. That is why we are calling, in the regulatory framework of the CAP, for an end to European agricultural export subsidies and greater support for the interests of farm workers in the developing countries.

MEASURES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CAP:

1. Planned reforms of the CAP require a prior social impact assessment. Regular consultation between the Directorates General for Employment (EMPL) and Agriculture (AGRI) at the European Commission can promptly deliver important information about the social consequences of the reforms, and in that way, prevent social distortions. EFFAT will be very happy to take part in such consultations.
2. European regulations on labour and health protection should be incorporated into the cross-compliance regulatory framework.
3. Professional skills and lifelong learning for workers, in the same way as health and safety at work, constitute prerequisites for productivity and quality in agriculture, and must therefore be included in the stated aims of the CAP.
4. Workers who lose their jobs directly as a consequence of the CAP reforms should be given assistance. Compensation payments should be made not just to the owners of businesses, but also to the workers affected. Because of the small size of the businesses, solutions need to be found above all at the cross-business level.
5. The implementation of the CAP requires co-operation with the groups concerned. By strengthening the culture of the social dialogue at national and local levels, too, trade unions should be more closely involved.



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FURTHER MEASURES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CAP:

- Alongside the production of foodstuffs and animal feed, the production of energy and industrial raw materials and the preservation of cultural landscapes should be enshrined among the CAP goals.
- Support for innovations in organic products should be given priority.
- The role of renewable raw materials, bio-energy sources and fuels from agricultural raw materials should be defined. This area offers both opportunities and risks.
- EU agricultural export subsidies should be scrapped. The damage they do to the development of local farms, in particular in developing countries, has been amply demonstrated.

FURTHER MEASURES OUTSIDE THE CAP:

EFFAT, together with the European agricultural employers, demands the immediate ratification by the governments of the EU Member States of ILO Convention 184 (Convention concerning safety and health in agriculture).

Background:

EFFAT represents some 120 national agriculture, food and tourism trade unions from 36 European countries vis-à-vis European institutions and federations.

EFFAT is the only body representing the approximately 6.5 million agricultural workers in Europe on a representative basis.

EFFAT, together with the employers in European agriculture, works to develop solutions to topical problems experienced by agricultural workers.

EFFAT keeps its member organisations informed about current developments in Europe.

Further information can be found at: www.effat.org

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