



Minister of Agriculture and Food

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PRESS RELEASE

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“Towards the 2020 CAP”: Stéphane Travert brings the stakeholders together for discussions on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy

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At the instigation of Stéphane Travert, France’s Minister of Agriculture and Food, all national stakeholders with an interest in the future of the CAP were brought together for the first time on Tuesday 19 December 2017 at the OECD. Representatives of the three major bodies of fundamental importance for EU policy also took part in the “Toward the 2020 CAP” conference, most notably Commissioner Phil Hogan, members of the European Parliament and several European ministers of agriculture.

It was also Stéphane Travert’s wish to hold this major national conference to allow the stakeholders to share their thoughts on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy at a key point in time. The European Commission has in fact recently published a policy document on the future CAP and will be putting forward its legislative proposals for the post-2020 policy during May 2018.

This gathering enabled nearly 300 participants to exchange views in three round tables addressing themes that correspond to the issues identified by France.

The round tables featured statements by attending EU ministers of agriculture, providing a reminder of the major European dimension of this policy, as well as of the process of construction and decision-making by which it is determined.

Stéphane Travert took this opportunity of recalling his attachment to the development of the current CAP in the direction of an ambitious political project commensurate with the challenges facing the European Union today: **“The great European agricultural transition we all want to see, a transition to a form of agriculture that is more responsible, more sustainable and more resilient, must be supported by a CAP with objectives that are ambitious and shared across Europe”**.

Specifically, Stéphane Travert recalled that the future CAP should be capable of confronting the following challenges:

- **“Liberating the development of agricultural and agrifood enterprises; ensuring fair prices for producers, fostering work on a sectoral basis and adapting rules and systems to match the specific characteristics of each sector”**.
- **“Adding value to, and remunerating the environmental services provided by agriculture, as well as promoting climate, energy and territorial transitions; encouraging the transformation of production practices and systems”**.

- **“And lastly, strengthening risk management while also empowering industry actors in their economic decisions”.**

He emphasised the fact that different agricultural models must not be seen as mutually opposed and the necessity of using tools to match the diversity of European models, while also underscoring the difficulty this represents: **“We are going to have to find the right balance between common objectives and specific objectives, between general models and local models, between generalised schemes and territorially-adjusted measures”.** He also recalled that the CAP needed to be simplified, readily understandable and understood by all, not only for its beneficiaries but for all European citizens.

Stéphane Travert reaffirmed France’s position on the need for a strong budget for the future CAP as part of the EU’s next multiannual financial framework, and expressed his opposition to the introduction of national cofinance for supporting the “basic” income of farmers in connection with direct payments. This also applies to the funding of crisis management and the tools providing remuneration for environmental performance and assistance for the ecological transition of farming systems, **“because the achievement of our common environmental objectives must not be dependent on the ability of Member States to provide dedicated funding”.**

In conclusion, Stéphane Travert invited all stakeholders to continue together the work begun at the “Towards the 2020 CAP” conference, in order to **“reach a political compromise before the European elections are held in 2019, so that we have a framework for its beneficiaries that is stabilised and coherent from the standpoints of both funding and the tools to be used”.**