

# Joint statement by the ministers of agriculture of Germany and France on future CAP

## The German minister of agriculture and the French minister of agriculture:

1. **RECALL** the importance of food security and sovereignty for the European Union in order to ensure European citizens healthy and quality food. **CONSIDER** that agriculture must be able to continue to meet consumers and citizens new demands.
2. **ARE COMMITTED** to the Common Agricultural Policy, to the European added value of this policy and its two-pillars structure to keep on supporting the evolution of European agriculture towards more sustainable production models, taking into account market orientation and the objective of providing a decent income for farmers.
3. **INSIST** on the need to really simplify the CAP and **CONSIDER** that the new delivery model represents a real opportunity in that way. Nevertheless, **NOTE** that the Commission proposal does not provide sufficient guarantees for simplification at this stage. **RECALL** that requirements for the approval and implementation of the strategic plans should also lead to a reduction of the administrative burden for farmers and Member States. **HIGHLIGHT** that agriculture and Member States need a stable and reliable policy frame. **CONSIDER**, in order to reach that goal, that the main provisions will have to be included in the basic acts.
4. **SUPPORT** a reinforced environmental ambition to meet climate and environmental issues as well as societal demands, through interventions proposed by the Commission: ambitious conditionality, eco-scheme and agri-environmental and climate measures. **UNDERLINE** that the combination of these interventions must provide adequate remuneration for environmental services, provide sufficient incentives for farmers and be adapted to the diversity of territories.

5. **RECALL** that an ambitious conditionality can achieve its objectives only if it is understandable, simple and operational and guarantees a common set of requirements at European level, notably by integrating the criteria of the current greening.
6. **RECALL** the importance of second pillar measures, allowing, with specific means, contributing to the improvement of farm competitiveness, to value chains creation and to the achievement of environmental and climate goals, and **STRESS** in particular the role played by support to less-favored areas.
7. **UNDERLINE** the need to strengthen the vitality of rural areas through second pillar measures and to take into account in particular digitalisation and other actions for the development of rural territories.
8. **ESTIMATE** that the possibility of better targeting of direct payments is necessary and **RECOGNIZE** for instance the interest of redistributive payment to better support family farms. **RECALL**, in contrast, that some of the targeting tools such as capping and degressivity should remain optional to meet the needs and specificities of rural areas.
9. **STRESS** the benefits of the various tools of the CAP to encourage the structuring of the agricultural sectors, the development of quality programmes and certification, particularly in organic farming, and new ways of adding value to products. Thus **SUPPORT** the emergence of strategic sectors with a view to sustainable development, in particular in bioeconomy, while preserving a proper functioning of the single market.
10. **SUPPORT** the objective of improving the range of risk management tools to better support farms to face economic, climatic or health hazards, but **FAVOUR** a voluntary approach for the Member States adapted to each Member State's situation, avoiding distortion of competition. **RECALL** that the evolution of agricultural systems towards greater economic and environmental sustainability strengthens their resilience to the diversity of hazards. **SUPPORT** the Commission's proposal for a multiannual crisis reserve which should be more flexible and sufficiently resourced to respond to large-scale crises.
11. **SHARE** the willingness to reach an agreement on the multiannual financial framework as soon as possible but **REFUSE** the proposal to cut the CAP budget.
12. **RECALL** that a decrease in the resources allocated to the CAP is consistent neither with reinforced environmental and climatic objectives, nor with increasing societal expectations towards the agricultural sector.
13. **ASK**, therefore, that the CAP budget be maintained at its current EU-27 level.