

REPORT
The future of agriculture and the post-2027 common agricultural policy
(2025/2052(INI))

Rapporteur: Carmen CRESPO DIAZ (EPP)

Compromise amendments

PARAGRAPHS

The path to competitive and sustainable agriculture

COMPROMISE 1 on paragraph 1 (General principles)

1. *Takes note of the Commission's communication entitled 'A Vision for Agriculture and Food' as a roadmap for the post-2027 CAP, with important contributions with respect to **generational renewal** competitiveness, **sustainability, resilience**, simplification and greater reciprocity **of standards in trade**, and with an emphasis on innovation to achieve economic, social and environmental sustainability and on prioritising incentives over restrictions **and on a fairer targeting of CAP support** ; **recognises in this approach a renewed emphasis on the CAP's traditional core aims as enshrined in Article 39 TFEU; emphasises the importance of ensuring a standalone CAP budget in order to achieve these aims;***

*1 a. **Underlines that agriculture plays a fundamental role in assuring food security for the EU and beyond, in safeguarding human health, in maintaining biodiversity and healthy soil and water, and in social cohesion; underlines that the future CAP should simplify access to climate adaptation and mitigation measures and that farmers should be rewarded for the efforts they make in this respect; stresses that farmers play a critical role in ensuring the sustainability of European agricultural production across its environmental, social, and economic dimensions, while also contributing to food security and strategic autonomy and should therefore be supported; calls for impact assessments that take into account farm-level implications to be carried out before any new regulations are proposed, which entail new requirements and bureaucratic burdens on farmers, and calls for a review of all existing obligations; insists that agriculture remain a union policy and not be included in a single fund, in order to ensure uniform conditions among Member States.***

COMPROMISE 2 on paragraph 2 (Financing CAP)

2. ***Calls for an increased and dedicated budget for the CAP, which is indexed for inflation through annual re-evaluations, in the next multiannual financial framework (MFF) in order to ensure security of food supply regardless of the commercial instabilities arising from the volatility of the geopolitical environment; stresses that without adequate resources, the CAP will no longer be able to be a key driver for ensuring the economic, environmental and***

social sustainability of EU agriculture, while guaranteeing a fair income *and fair conditions for those involved in the farming sector* and a fully functioning single market; *urges that the financial resources allocated to the CAP remain earmarked in the budget for that purpose, in particular direct payments; strongly opposes the idea that Member States should be allowed to use the CAP budget as part of a total envelope for purposes other than agriculture; stresses that an adequate budget will help ensure the continuation of a common policy;*

2a. Calls on the Commission and the co-legislators to maintain fixed and ring-fenced income support as a core component of the post-2027 CAP, recognising its vital role in ensuring food production, with high quality and health standards for EU consumers and providing farmers with stability in the face of market volatility, extreme weather events, ensuring a fair standard of living for farmers, guaranteeing security of supply and building food and feed autonomy; considers that the current situation of the regions located at the EU's external borders must also be taken into account;

2b. Notes concerns over potential budgetary overhauls in the post-2027 EU Budget, including the possible centralisation of funding streams; warns that integrating the CAP with other funding areas such as Cohesion, Regional Development, and Fisheries could undermine the distinct role of agricultural policy;

2c. Emphasizes the need for the CAP to continue to have its own legal and institutional standing in the coming period; stresses the importance of maintaining the CAP budget as a stand-alone, distinct and dedicated budget, tailored to the specific needs of the European agricultural sector; calls on the Commission to reduce administrative burdens to ensure that farmers can directly access support without excessive reliance on external consultants;

2d. Reaffirms the importance of maintaining the CAP as a separate, distinct policy, serving as a partnership between agriculture and society, and between Europe and its farmers, providing reliable support to them with the aim of enhancing food security; firmly rejects any proposal to include the CAP budget in a single fund with other policies or funds, as such an approach would reduce the effectiveness of interventions and compromise the Union's strategic objectives in terms of food security and rural development;

2e. Points out that, in the current geopolitical context, secure and constant access to food has become a matter of strategic security, and that dependence on imports can be exploited as an instrument of pressure; underlines that, also given today's geopolitical situation, more emphasis should be placed on the CAP's traditional core aims: supporting food security and resilience, ensuring a fair income for farmers, and improving market stability and competitiveness;

COMPROMISE 3 on paragraph 3 (Role of agricultural and food production)

3. Stresses that *sustainable* food and agricultural production play a *heightened* strategic role, *accentuated by* the new geopolitical context, and is an essential part of European security, *stability* and sovereignty *as well as strategic autonomy and the CAP budget amount and framework must reflect that; maintains that EU farming should be recognised not only as an economic sector, but also as a geopolitical cornerstone, a tool for social and territorial*

stability and a critical component of the EU's security and defence policies; notes that at global level, with the exception of the European Union, countries playing a key role in the agricultural sector have stepped up their spending and protection for the sector since the 2007-2008 food crisis; recalls that agricultural productivity and resilience is dependent on the sustainable management of natural resources to guarantee the long-term sustainability of our food systems; highlights the need for the post-2027 CAP to contribute to strengthening the Union's overall preparedness and resilience; emphasises that the Commission and the Member States should include food in their security and competitiveness plans; calls on the Commission and the Member States to consider establishing strategic storage facilities at European and national level with a view to safeguarding food security;

3a. Points out that efficient agricultural production makes an important contribution to the sustainability of the sector, by optimising yields with the fewest possible inputs; emphasises that the CAP must include instruments and investments that enhance the capacity of farms and rural areas to be prepared for, absorb and recover from shocks; insists that the CAP's primary objective should be to meet the European population's food needs and this means supporting farmers more effectively so as to boost EU food security and strategic autonomy;

COMPROMISE 4 on paragraph 4 (Cooperation and dialogue in the agri-food value chain)

*4. Points out that cooperation, **aggregation** and dialogue, as well as **a better organisation of farmers through cooperatives, producer organisations (POs) or associations of producer organisations (APOs)** in the agri-food value chain, together with **derogations from competition law and specific support**, are key to improving the position of farmers, promoting a more equitable distribution of margins and increasing the efficiency of all actors; notes, in this respect, that the reform of the CMO and the Unfair Trade Practices Directive **can be an opportunity to strengthen the position of farmers in national and transnational agri-food supply chains, ensuring that producers get a fair price for their products and for their work** by reinforcing crisis management mechanisms and improving cross-border enforcement against unfair trading practices **through harmonisation at EU level without compromising nor negatively impacting on the best existing national strategies and practices**; calls on the Commission to examine the possibility of establishing new instruments to avoid that prices received by farmers for their products are below the costs of production;*

4a. Underlines, in particular, the importance of strengthening cross-border cooperation between competent authorities in the Member States, ensuring effective, coordinated and consistent enforcement of rules across the internal market, in order to combat abusive behaviour, ensure fairness along the supply chain and prevent unfair competition; emphasises that food security and food sovereignty are vital components of strategic autonomy and that the next MFF must continue to effectively support the competitiveness and resilience of the Union's farming sector;

COMPROMISE 5 on paragraph 5 (Direct Payments)

5. Stresses the importance of safeguarding *and reinforcing* direct *income support to meet the needs of* all *active, professional* farmers under the CAP, *both full and part-time*, regardless of their size and type of production; underlines the importance of including *pluriactive* farmers, since *all* farmers contribute significantly to the socioeconomic fabric of rural areas.

5a. Points out that direct payments in their current form generate clear EU added value and recalls the importance of an area-based model; while increasing support for the most vulnerable farmers, including family farms, small and medium-sized farms, young and women farmers, farms in areas with natural constraints and those who adopt more sustainable practices; aims at a model that provides stability and contributes effectively to farmers' incomes and maintains the economic viability, competitiveness and sustainability of food production in all regions and territories of the EU; believes that it is essential to ensure fairness in the distribution of direct payments both among and within Member States;

5b. Believes that in order to improve the targeting of CAP support to those engaged in an agricultural activity, it is necessary to further refine the Union-level framework definition of a farmer and, on the basis of this definition, the Member States should define which farmers are eligible for support; insists that this definition should not result in precluding support to pluri-active farmers, who are actively farming, but who are also engaged in non-agricultural activities outside their farm, as their multiple activities often strengthen the socio-economic fabric of rural areas;

5c. Emphasises the importance of transparency in the allocation of CAP funds and calls for the systematic identification of final beneficiaries and interconnected companies; urges the Commission and Member States to introduce control mechanisms to prevent concentration of aid through complex ownership structures or an artificial fragmentation of farms.

5d. Considers that, so long as a level playing field in the internal market is respected, voluntary coupled support (VCS) payments should be maintained or increased, with sufficient budgetary allocation and with greater flexibility in their use, as a simple tool to maintain production in vulnerable sectors and to counteract specific difficulties, particularly those arising from the structural competitive disadvantage of less-favoured areas.

5e. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to maintain the voluntary nature of eco-schemes and to make them simpler and more flexible in the post-2027 CAP; calls on the Member States to provide their farmers with a clear and simple list of efficient and effective eco-scheme options to choose from, accompanied by appropriate and attractive remuneration to incentivise them, while neither undermining the funds allocated for direct payments and investments nor increasing red tape; calls on the Member States to invest in training to support farmers in making effective use of eco-schemes;

5f. Recognizes the progress already achieved through social conditionality; calls for an evaluation of social conditionality in the CAP and a proportionate, effective and clearly defined implementation to avoid duplication of regulations with Member States and disproportionate administrative burdens on farmers and to protect workers' rights;

COMPROMISE 5A on paragraph 5a (Direct Payments - Study on redistribution)

5a. Calls for a comprehensive study to assess whether introducing mandatory mechanisms such as a redistribution or limitation of direct payments under the CAP through capping and degressivity would improve fairness; stresses that this shall be analysed in advance of the presentation of proposals for a new CAP in order to develop appropriate instruments that can genuinely support the viability of farms across EU, including young, women and small and medium-sized farmers; stresses that this study should also analyse the non-application of capping to specific payments, such as eco-schemes and agri-environment or climate-related payments.

COMPROMISE 6 on paragraph 6 (A CAP separated from cohesion policies)

6. Calls for an *independent and strong* second pillar of the CAP, separate from but closely coordinated with cohesion policies, *which promotes policy coherence to facilitate inter alia territorial integration*, and ensures *synergies* and effective support for the agricultural sector *within a coherent framework that guarantees the efficient use of EU funds* and protects investments; *insists that these funds reach beneficiaries in a timely manner; believes that rural development funding should be allocated primarily to agriculture-related activities, while other actions supporting territories or infrastructure should be financed from the Cohesion Funds;*

6a. Stresses the need for a well-funded Rural Development Programme (RDP) under the second pillar of the CAP to support rural areas, with a strong EU financial contribution, complemented by national co-financing to ensure the programme's effectiveness and long-term sustainability; emphasises in this sense the crucial role of local governments and stakeholders such as cooperatives and local action groups in streamlining the efforts of Pillar 2; insists that regions must be able to design, implement and manage rural development measures autonomously, while respecting the constitutional specificities of each Member State;

6b. Calls for an *increase* in the *budget* allocated to the LEADER programme, which contributes to *addressing social challenges* and promoting *local action groups through strengthening CLLD approaches*, which are key in *building stronger rural-urban links*; *stresses that LEADER has a central role to play in promoting attractive, prosperous, resilient and interconnected rural areas by supporting initiatives that generate local added-value, stimulate entrepreneurship, foster innovation and strengthen the economic and social fabric of territories, all of which are essential for retaining and attracting human capital, especially young people and women, contributing to demographic and territorial balance, and generational renewal.*

COMPROMISE 7 on paragraph 7 (Voluntary agri-environmental, climate, animal health measures under Pillar II)

7. Recognises that voluntary agri-environment-climate measures (AECM), *animal health, animal welfare and plant health measures* under Pillar II, using simplified *and both* incentive-based *and compliance-based* approaches, are key instruments for safeguarding the environment and promoting sustainable practices, *while contributing to decent incomes for*

the farmers who implement them; considers that these Pillar 2 schemes are more effective than eco-schemes, which have, in many Member States, not achieved the desired results due to their high complexity for farmers and thus should receive an increased share of funding in the future CAP; underlines the importance of ensuring that agri-environmental and climate measures contribute to maintaining and enhancing food production.

COMPROMISE 8 on paragraph 8 (Trade agreements)

8. *Calls on the European Commission to adopt concrete measures to guarantee that the same food safety, environmental, social and animal welfare standards are applied to imports of agri-food products from third countries as those expected of EU producers, in order to ensure a level playing-field and a high level of food safety, traceability and sustainable production in the EU; insists that this is essential to avoid compromising the competitiveness of EU agri-food production with respect to imported products; insists that, in order to avoid unfair competition for EU farmers, the Commission must be ready to activate safeguard clauses in third-country agreements when this is necessary to ensure the stability of the internal market;*

8a. *Calls on the Commission, in its efforts to open new markets and consolidate existing ones, to carry out a systematic impact assessment of the provisions relating to the agricultural sector in each of its trade agreements, which should take into account all interested parties to determine their cumulative impact, and to provide specific strategies to ensure a level playing field and reciprocity at all levels, particularly with regard to production, quality and social standards;*

8b. *Stresses that it is necessary to maintain consistency between the Union's trade and sustainability policies and to strengthen controls at source and at borders by the Commission and the Member States and through an EU control agency which would offer greater guarantees in terms of fair competition for European producers; calls for a review of Union trade policy to ensure that it effectively supports the competitiveness and sustainability of European agriculture; stresses that the sustainability and competitiveness of the EU's agricultural sector should not be undermined when securing future trade agreements.*

COMPROMISE 9 on paragraph 9 (To improve synergies and coordination between EU funding instruments)

9. *Calls on the Commission to improve synergies, complementarities and coordination among EU funding instruments, such as the Cohesion Fund, the NextGenerationEU recovery instrument and the Just Transition Fund, and with national instruments, as well as to open direct lines of cooperation with local authorities in managing and implementing the funds; further calls for enhanced integration with other relevant programmes, in order to maximise the impact of innovation, digitalisation, sustainability and resilience objectives in agriculture and rural areas; calls on the Commission to put in place an internal procedure, at the beginning of each financial programming period, to ensure complementarity and consistency between the different support instruments at EU level that are planned in rural areas;*

9a. Stresses that access to finance for farmers and other actors in the agri-food sector is essential for implementing investments, facilitating access to land and ensuring the continuity of agricultural activity on farms; stresses also that innovation and technology in the agri-food sector should continue to benefit from targeted investment support as a priority, to enable the EU to become a global digital hub, boosting start-ups and attracting and retaining talented young people.

COMPROMISE 10 on paragraph 10 (Increase in the Agricultural Reserve)

10. Notes that Member States face increasing and diverse risks; stresses, in this regard, that an appropriate increase **and a reform of the common agricultural crisis reserve**, combined with **the creation of new and specific financial instruments, with resources outside of the CAP, are both essential to support farmers** ; amid unpredictable market conditions and climate change-related challenges, such as drought, floods, **storms, plant and animal diseases, as well as changes in consumer behaviour and geopolitical tensions**; **calls on the European Commission to define its ex ante crisis management, strategy on a product-by-product basis, with a view to using the agricultural crisis reserve in a way that maximises efficiency and community added-value**; **calls on the Commission and Member States to ensure rapid, effective and proportionate responses to the needs of farmers in crisis situations, allowing them to swiftly obtain the capital they need to restore their agricultural activities.**

COMPROMISE 11 on paragraph 11 (Coordination between the Solidarity Fund and the CAP)

11. Calls for better coordination **and simplification** between **all available instruments, including the Solidarity Fund, to allow farmers, as well as rural communities and local authorities**, affected by natural **and climate-related** disasters to access faster and more targeted aid; **calls, in view of the increasing damages caused by natural disasters**, for the creation of **specific tools for risk mitigation and management based on active and passive measures which are affordable for the farmers**;

11a. **Calls on the Member States to ensure a timely and correct implementation of their National Strategic Plans (NSPs), across both pillars, thereby avoiding the return of funds**;

COMPROMISE 12 on paragraph 12 (Agriculture contributes through the CAP to other policies and strategies)

12. Stresses that, while agriculture contributes through the CAP to other policies and strategies, such as environment, energy, **trade**, climate, biodiversity, **animal health and welfare, public health** and regional development, it is relevant **and welcome** that other policies **continue to contribute to the sustainability of agriculture and to rural development and the provision of services going beyond the production of food and biogenic resources**; stresses,

in particular, the importance of bioenergy and bioeconomy development to support the resilience of the agricultural sector;

12a. Calls on the Commission to implement an EU-wide rural-proofing mechanism across all policy areas and to include the Rural Pact community, as well as the Committee of the Regions, in all activities related to the rural development framework; regrets that although the Commission included the rural-proofing mechanism in the Vision for Rural Areas towards 2040, this appears to have been implemented in practice only to a limited extent;

COMPROMISE 13 on paragraph 13 (High level of EU standards)

13. Reaffirms that the EU has the highest standards in the world in food safety, animal welfare and environmental and social protection, *which are cornerstones of the competitiveness of high-quality EU agricultural products, and which must be respected and protected; demands, therefore, that any proposed legislation in these areas should be science-based and be preceded by a rigorous and comprehensive impact assessment, and be designed to strengthen the competitiveness and the sustainability of EU farms; believes that incentivisation and compensation for farmers for the additional costs they incur is essential to meet this aim;*

COMPROMISE 14 on paragraph 14 (Protein strategy)

14. Calls on the Commission to *present in its legislative proposals for the next CAP an ambitious and comprehensive protein strategy, which shall include appropriate measures and instruments to promote high-quality protein-crop production, including leguminous crops, such as, but not limited to, certain oilseeds, pulses and green forage, and non-leguminous crops, such as sunflower and rape seed for food and feed purposes, with the aim of significantly reducing the EU's protein deficit and ensuring strategic autonomy;*

COMPROMISE 14a on paragraph 14 (Livestock sector and animal diseases)

14a. Emphasises the strategic importance of sustainable livestock farming for rural development, biodiversity conservation, landscape management and environmental sustainability, particularly in less-favoured areas and High Nature Value landscapes, and stresses the need to provide the sector with adequate financial support to ensure its sustainability; underlines that animal products are not only of nutritional value, but their production plays a crucial role in preserving traditional cultural landscapes, soil fertility and carbon storage; calls on the Commission to create a high-level group on livestock farming involving all relevant stakeholders to develop new approaches to safeguard the future of the sector and address the progressive loss of livestock in the EU, boosting generational renewal, promoting animal welfare and circular economy — including the use of digestate as a valuable biofertiliser contributing to nutrient recycling and soil health — and maximising the positive contribution of sustainable livestock farming on nature conservation and restoration, biodiversity and soil health and fertility, and promote investments to foster the

competitiveness of the sector; considers that the introduction of a new agricultural ETS would create excessive complexity without any guarantee of effectiveness;

14b. Highlights the recent outbreaks of animal diseases in several Member States; calls on the Commission and Member States to strengthen prevention and eradication measures and increase CAP funding allocations dedicated to risk management and improved on-farm biosecurity investments; calls on the Commission to strengthen animal health measures in the EU agricultural sector by coordinating the research, purchase and supply of veterinary vaccines at EU level through a preparedness and early detection mechanism, and by fostering the development of these vaccines in the EU; calls for adequate funding for this mechanism outside of the CAP; urges Member States to support and work with the regions in developing and implementing prevention, vaccination and mitigation plans for these diseases;

14c. Regrets that the funding of measures to prevent, control and eradicate certain animal diseases through the Single Market Programme is insufficient to support farmers and Member States in relation to diseases such as foot and mouth disease; stresses that, in the EU, any failure to prevent or control animal diseases in one Member State can have immediate repercussions on the others and requires a coordinated response; calls for the introduction of strict EU-level animal health standards to safeguard livestock farming, including provisions for the management of wild animal populations posing infection risks and for the targeted vaccination of animals when necessary.

14d. Stresses that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a major threat to human health and reducing the use of antibiotics in animal husbandry must be a priority; notes the funding available for reducing susceptibility and transmission of animal diseases already available in the CAP;

COMPROMISE 15 on paragraph 15 (Fair working conditions for farmers)

*15. Calls on the Member States to promote and improve **working and social conditions and wages** for farmers or any agricultural employee **and to ensure proper coverage** and replacement in the event of illness or accidents **causing a temporary absence**; **calls also for the provision of trainings and for annual leave and family leave to take care of family members**, in order to ensure **quality jobs and** a better work-life balance for farmers **and farm workers**; **underlines the role of agriculture as a key contributor to social responsibility and decent working conditions in rural areas**;*

COMPROMISE 16 on paragraph 16 (POSEI)

*16. Calls on the Commission to update the financial allocations for POSEI to reflect, **as a minimum**, cumulative inflation in the next multiannual financial framework, **with annually adjusted envelopes**, and regrets that the 2 % deflator applied to direct payments has not also been considered for POSEI in the current MFF; **believes, however, that the Commission must go further and propose a significant increase in POSEI's budget in the next MFF to provide complementary support for agricultural production, thus ensuring food self-sufficiency in***

the Outermost Regions (ORs); considers this to be essential for the continuity of agricultural activity in the ORs, for supporting investments, and for ensuring the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the EU, in full compliance with Article 349 of the TFEU, which recognises the specific nature of these regions and the need to adopt differentiated measures to respond to their permanent constraints; argues that increased POSEI funding should take into account the real, specific agricultural needs of these regions, including changes in production costs, exposure to increasing extreme weather events and climate change, territorial fragmentation, market volatility and the need to ensure the economic viability of farms and fair incomes for farmers; stresses, in this context, the importance of creating a specific mechanism, namely a POSEI Transport programme, which will help mitigate the additional transport costs of products within and from the ORs to the single market and factors of production in the ORs;

COMPROMISE 17 on paragraph 17 (Beekeeping financing)

17. Points out that Pillar II financing for beekeeping should be better targeted and made more effective and that the new legislative framework should provide for *a modernization and simplification of the Pillar I support scheme for beekeepers that takes into account the specific features and vulnerabilities of the sector.*

COMPROMISE 18 on paragraph 18 (Connectivity for rural areas)

18. Highlights the importance of *access to physical and digital infrastructure with reliable high-speed broadband service and the use of satellite technology* for farmers' work and quality of life in rural areas and in overcoming social isolation; *insists, therefore, on the importance of achieving a gradual digitalisation of agriculture, which involves constant access to the internet, digital knowledge, innovation, farmer data access and ownership, education and training opportunities so as to attract and retain people in these areas, especially young people, affording them the possibility of remaining in these areas should they wish to do so; calls on the Commission and the Member States to make training available for farmers and forest managers to acquire digital skills that can help them to make the best use of the advantages of digitalisation and precision farming and work in a more efficient and sustainable way, while mindful of the fact that personal and verbal communication remain essential for many farmers at present; recognises the crucial role of farmers' organisations in driving the digital transformation of agriculture;*

18a. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure full alignment between the Digital Europe Programme, broadband deployment policies and the post-2027 CAP; affirms the necessity of both equipping rural areas with digital infrastructure services and of boosting the skills necessary for remote work, precision farming and digital entrepreneurship; underlines that digital infrastructure services must be affordable for rural citizens; highlights that such investment is key to reducing rural depopulation and enhancing the attractiveness of agriculture and rural living for younger generations.

COMPROMISE 19 on paragraph 19 (Mental health of farmers)

19. Calls for greater awareness of the importance of the mental health of farmers and *agricultural workers* given the high *rate of suicide* in this *sector*; emphasises that this is an alarming phenomenon caused, *inter alia*, by high levels of stress, uncertainty, *onerous administrative burdens, as well as vulnerability, social isolation, lack of holiday, debt and economic hardship faced by farmers; further highlight that stressful farm inspection procedures place additional pressure on farmers in managing their holdings and calls on the Member States to develop mechanisms to address this; urges the Commission and the Member States to foster collaboration to develop a comprehensive mental health strategy for farmers and ensure that appropriate support measures are included in the next CAP; emphasises the value of tailor-made approaches, fit to local circumstances, using various types of support services, including existing farm advisory networks and other rural community support groups*; considers that it is necessary to develop psychological support programmes, as well as measures promoting administrative simplification and work-life balance, all of which will improve the quality of life of *EU farmers and workers*; *reiterates the need for farmers to receive fair prices for their market and non-market products.*

COMPROMISE 20 on paragraph 20 (Harmonized European labelling)

20. *Stresses that over 70% of consumers in the EU base their purchasing decisions on the information on packaging and draws attention to the real risk of consumers being misled; calls, therefore, for the consolidation of harmonised European labelling to ensure a fair and equitable system, providing transparency about the country of origin, quality assurances and production standards, including animal welfare and organic, of EU agri-food products; considers that it is necessary to guarantee traceability and competitiveness in the single market and globally through clear rules to avoid distortions and misleading practices in order to protect the integrity of EU food systems, enhance their promotion, and reinforce consumer information and awareness;*

20a. Advocates for enhanced protection measures for regional products, including the strengthening of Protected Designations of Origin (PDO), Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) and Traditional Specialities Guaranteed (TSG) regimes through streamlined procedures that safeguard against misuse and counterfeiting.

COMPROMISE 21 on paragraph 21 (Promote nutritional education)

21. Calls for the promotion of nutrition education in schools and school canteens, with the aim of helping children understand the importance of a complete and balanced diet from an early age, aiming to help children understand the *origin of food*; encourages the development of healthy eating habits and school menus that include a variety of *vitamins, fibre and nutrient-rich foods* to contribute to strengthening the physical and mental well-being of students; *furthermore, stresses the need to respect and promote national, local, and seasonal gastronomy as a valuable cultural heritage, well represented in the Mediterranean Diet model; urges the Commission to ensure additional resources to local and regional authorities for schemes aimed at these activities and stresses the need for public procurement to be guided*

by quality, not price, and to promote, where possible, the consumption of GI, organic, local and seasonal products;

21a. Underlines the importance of the European Union scheme for the distribution of milk, fruit and vegetables to children through the school programmes as a key tool to promote healthy eating, especially for children from vulnerable backgrounds for whom school meals can be one of the few sources of balanced nutrition; regrets that some Member States are not using the funds allocated to this programme, which is leading to an underuse of the available budget; draws attention to the importance of involving farmers and actors across the agri-food value chain in delivering food education, promoting direct links between producers and schools;

21b. Emphasises the importance of maintaining appropriate financial allocation to the olive oil and table olives due to its significant health and nutritional benefits for all Europeans.

COMPROMISE 22 on paragraph 22 (The recognition of the essential work of farmers)

22. Encourages politicians, schools, media, farmers, local associations, to work together in promoting a positive image of farming, increasing its attractiveness to young people and to better communicate on the farmer's role in sustainable food production and environmental services; calls for widespread recognition of the essential work performed by farmers and farm workers on food safety and their commitment to sustainable practices through campaigns aimed at raising consumer awareness of the choices they make when buying and at strengthening the relationship between consumers and European farmers, promoting a better understanding of how they produce the agri-food products that consumers purchase; highlights the need to counteract misinformation and misleading, erroneous and unjustified messages in order to improve the negative image that part of society has of farmers; urges Member States to include this recognition in their educational plans to make agriculture an attractive economic activity; strongly regrets the fact that farmers and rural residents have suffered from many years of de-prioritisation and underinvestment;

Simplification of the post-2027 CAP: Strategies for more efficient management

COMPROMISE 23 on paragraph 23 (reduction of administrative burdens)

23. Supports, with a view to the future, the Commission's objective for the 2024–2029 period of reducing administrative burdens for farmers and simplifying legislation as a cross-cutting strategic priority, in order to facilitate access to CAP support and make implementation on the ground more effective; insists that this must be one of the guiding principle underpinning all actions aimed at achieving the social, environmental and economic sustainability of EU agriculture, without undermining the five main objectives of the CAP as set out in Article 39 of the TFEU; stresses that CAP simplification should not compromise

a strong regulatory framework at EU level as this is vital for preserving the commonality of the agricultural policy and ensuring public support for the necessary financial resources;

23a. Stresses the need for more flexibility and a simpler funding structure in the new CAP that benefits the active farmer; points out that volatile conditions, increasing regulations and rising societal expectations causes frustration among farmers and affects the attractiveness of the profession, especially among young farmers and the most vulnerable;

23b. Calls on the European Commission, when designing the future architecture of the CAP, to focus on delivering clearer criteria, digitalised procedures, standardised guidelines, timely communication of changes and accessible technical support; highlights that gold plating adds complexity for farmers and beneficiaries, reducing the effectiveness and uptake of important measures;

23c. Demands better coordination between the European Commission, national and regional authorities regarding the reduction of documentation and reporting obligations; emphasises the need for proactive engagement between the Commission, Member State authorities, farmers and farm organisations before national CAP Strategic Plans are drawn up; underlines the need for greater flexibility for Member States within CAP Strategic Plans, allowing them to adapt specific elements without requiring prior approval from the Commission when necessary; calls for the establishment of a centralized, electronic reporting system, a 'CAP one stop shop', where farmers can submit applications, reports, and all required documentation in one place, avoiding unnecessary and duplicated administration.

COMPROMISE 24 on paragraph 24 (Cross-compliance requirements)

24. Calls for a realistic, incentive-based system for farmers, which reflects the time commitment given by the beneficiary, rather than a system based purely on obligations to achieve ambitious environmental and social objectives, taking due account of the specificities of geographical areas; believes that incentive-based approaches yield the best results in terms of enhancing the sustainability of European agriculture; stresses that it is vital, when calculating the remuneration due for the services provided, that the methodology goes beyond the narrow lens of “costs incurred and income forgone” by the farmer, as the socio-economic losses to the wider community can be much greater with the loss of both upstream and downstream economic activity in the local area; believes that the funds for these payments should come from the CAP or from national funds so that public funding can truly incentivise green innovation and transition; invites the Commission to explore additional funding sources beyond the CAP to support farmers in developing locally-adapted, sustainable business models;

24a. Emphasises that the implementation of GAEC requirements must take into account existing land use and farming practices; stresses that active farmers must retain the right to continue their current agricultural activities, including necessary maintenance operations, without facing additional administrative or operational restrictions.

COMPROMISE 25 on paragraph 25 (Reassess the CAP cross-compliance requirements)

25. Stresses the need to *continue to assess* the *conditionality* requirements of the CAP in order to ease administrative burdens, *obstacles or economic barriers*, reduce costs and avoid excessive implementation requirements *for farmers*; insists on farmers' need for flexibility *and simplicity, while continuing to promote responsible farming practices, through incentives, maintaining a level playing field and public support for the policy, in an approach that generates greater added value and more investment in innovation*;

25a. *Urges the European Commission to encourage farmers' self-responsibility by allowing a degree of tolerance and by ensuring that sanctions are fair and proportionate, especially with regard to conditionality requirements, as well as voluntary ecoschemes and agri-environmental and climate measures; stresses the need for all new legislative requirements under the post-2027 CAP to be accompanied by sufficient transition periods and administrative simplifications to ensure legal and planning certainty for farmers.*

COMPROMISE 26 on paragraph 26 (CMO - farmer cooperation)

26. Stresses that the CMO Regulation *must be simplified, accelerating* procedures to grant exceptional aid to farmers; underlines the *importance of promoting and enhancing* the crucial role *played by cooperatives*, producer organisations (POs), *associations of producer organisations (APOs)*, fruit and vegetable producer organisations (FVPOs), *inter-branch organisations*, and other entities contributing *to the agri-food value chain, including the organic sector, in making the agri-food value chain more balanced and thus ensuring better remuneration for farmers; urges the Commission to examine how their cooperation can be further encouraged and supported through the CMO Regulation*;

26a. *Calls on the Commission to provide a comprehensive review of the tools, including market observatories, aimed at improving resilience against market volatility and collapses in market prices; insists that it is necessary to update and strengthen existing risk management instruments and to enhance cooperation among cooperatives, POs and APOs with a view to strengthening their role in the management of economic and risk management tools; insists on the need to further facilitate the application of the exemptions from competition rules for farmers to address and overcome market crises*;

26b. *Encourages the Commission to provide efficient safety nets in the CMO Regulation, including a review of the current public intervention prices and reference thresholds to accurately reflect the current economic conditions and realities*;

26c. *Welcomes the Commission's new package for the wine sector and calls on the Commission to further allocate financial resources for the implementation of the proposed measures and for a long-term sustainable revival of the wine sector.*

COMPROMISE 27 on paragraph 27 (Impact Assessments / Greenhouses and permanent crops)

27. Calls for a guarantee that any legislative proposal affecting agriculture will be *preceded, except in exceptional circumstances*, by a detailed, *comprehensive and evidence-based* cumulative impact assessment, *with particular emphasis on economic, environmental and social aspects, aiming to provide legal certainty for farmers*; *advocates for the assessment of the economic impacts of proposed policy measures at farm level and the financial means required for their implementation, as well as continuous monitoring of the measures*; *stresses that the continuous increase in regulatory burdens placed on the sector has caused frustration among farmers and resulted in significant extra costs at farm level, and is one of the factors affecting the attractiveness of the profession for new entrants*;

27a. *Stresses the importance of recognizing the diversity of European agriculture, including greenhouse horticulture and permanent crops, when designing support measures, regulatory requirements and innovation strategies*; *calls for the introduction and adaptation of EU regulations specifically developed to address the challenges and opportunities of greenhouse, urban and vertical farming*.

COMPROMISE 28 on paragraph 28 (Information gathering)

28. *Stresses the need for a transition to integrated and interoperable digital systems to monitor the CAP*; *underlines, in this context, the importance of promoting the collection of data and information under a single legislative framework that relies, in particular, on satellite imagery to develop integrated management and control systems*; *highlights that such systems should aim to reduce face-to-face or physical on-the-spot inspections, where feasible, and minimise farmers' administrative burdens and costs*; *insists that the protection and ownership of farmers' data must be fully guaranteed*; *recalls, however, that, in view of the existing limitations in the use of satellite technology, particularly concerning small, narrow parcels, it remains necessary to maintain other systems in the meantime*;

28a. *Calls for Member States to implement the Single Audit Approach to minimise farmers' time lost to accompanying controls (1206)*; *encourages the Commission to modernise the integrated management and control system for satellite imagery, such as Copernicus or Galileo, in order to integrate existing new technologies to provide greater accuracy, reliability and simplification*;

28b. *Advocates for allowing Member States greater flexibility to support investment in key innovations and technologies, such as the use of satellites, IoT, and similar technologies to capture operational data*; *believes this will ensure transparency and compliance without imposing additional costs on farmers, facilitating the transition towards a trust-based system where reliable farmers can self-certify their compliance, complemented by targeted, risk-based audits rather than broad, routine inspections*;

28c. *Underlines the need to design innovation strategies and digital transitions in a way that is participatory and accessible to all farms, ensuring that technological progress contributes to rural cohesion, democratic participation and sustainable development*.

Water and the circular economy as a foundation for the post-2027 CAP

COMPROMISE 29 on paragraph 29 & 30 merged (Water perspective and management)

29. Urges the Commission to *integrate a strategic and holistic approach to water resources into the post-2027 CAP and to increase its synergies with other EU funds, such as the ERDF, to strengthen the water-food nexus as a key element in strengthening food security and in the development of rural areas*; further calls for increased investment in improving water resilience through the modernization and development of water retention, distribution, storage, sustainable regulating infrastructure as well as nature-based solutions, which is key to achieving a more efficient and competitive agricultural sector;

29a. *Calls on the Commission to guarantee access to water for sustainable irrigation; stresses the need to promote investment in wastewater purification and treatment, as well as the use of non-conventional water sources, such as reclaimed and desalinated water for the agricultural sector, regardless of farm size, at competitive prices, with water transport interconnections being equally important to transport this water; calls on the Commission to take into account both the significant differences and challenges in EU Member States and also the good practices implemented by each Member State to safeguard agricultural production; calls on the Commission to invest in training programmes for farmers on water use efficiency;*

29b. *Calls on the Commission to prioritize the promotion of innovative technologies, smart irrigation, and the digitalization of infrastructure to optimize water use and reduce the water footprint, especially in regions affected by drought and desertification, while ensuring stable production;*

29c. *Draws attention to the fact that many existing irrigation systems are obsolete and inefficient, causing significant water losses and therefore requiring replacement or modernization; calls, therefore, on the Commission to include financial incentives for such modernization among its priorities and supports their inclusion as eligible investments within the CAP Strategic Plans and relevant EU cohesion instruments;*

29d. *Highlights the complexity of using CAP funds, particularly those from the second pillar, to finance irrigation infrastructure and therefore calls for a review of the design and financing mechanisms for such infrastructure to improve the availability and use of water resources by farmers, reflecting the real costs and added value of the environmental and landscape services they provide.*

COMPROMISE 30 on paragraphs 31 and 33 merged (Boosting the circular economy promote a model based on the bioeconomy)

30. Calls for *targeted and effective* support for EU farmers and foresters to boost the circular economy *and integrate into the emerging bioeconomy, through incentives for the recovery of biomass, agricultural waste and co-products, which would also support the energy autonomy of farms and reduce their dependence on external inputs*; points out the need to optimize the use of raw materials and secondary products that generate by-products such as *digestate and new energy sources, including sustainable biogas and sustainable*

biofuels, mindful of the need to prioritise food production; underlines that these measures, which must not lead to increased administrative burdens at farm level, will contribute to strengthening the Union's energy autonomy, boost additional sources of income for farmers and create new employment opportunities; encourages the Commission, in this context, to recognise the importance of these aspects in the forthcoming Bioeconomy Strategy for 2025;

30a. Stresses the need for a holistic approach to decarbonizing agriculture and calls for appropriate encouragement and incentives, including for the recovery of biomass and rewarding carbon sequestration in soils, as well as sufficient funding for farmers to adopt solutions and practices that reduce the carbon footprint of crops while maintaining their competitiveness, so that the burden of such decarbonization and work load does not fall exclusively on them;

30b. Urges the Commission and the Member States to encourage and enhance the integration of agriculture and renewable energy, recognising the potential of this synergy to promote sustainable farming practices, strengthen local resilience to climate change and enhance the circular economy; highlights the potential for agriculture to play a key role in the Clean Industrial Deal and the energy transition through the production of renewable energy in the sector; calls on the Commission to clarify the provisions of the CAP to better align and increase the compatibility of renewable and sustainable energy sources, such as agrisolar and biogas, with agricultural activities;

COMPROMISE 30a on Nitrates directive - RENURE

30a. Advocates for a review of the Nitrates Directive to align it with the latest scientific evidence and best agricultural practices, while continuing to protect water quality; calls, in this regard, on the Commission to work with Member States to swiftly adopt a science-based proposal allowing the use of RENURE fertilizers under clearly defined conditions so that farmers can reduce their reliance on synthetic fertilizers and accelerate the transition towards more circular and sustainable nutrient management systems.

COMPROMISE 31 on paragraph 32 (Strengthening risk management instruments in the CAP)

31. Calls on the Commission and Member States to strengthen risk management instruments in the post-2027 CAP by increasing financial support for agricultural insurance, mutual funds and the Income Stabilization Tool; insists on the need to make insurance more accessible and financially viable for farmers; points to the need to introduce a mechanism at EU level to reinforce national agricultural insurance schemes to be activated automatically to cope with extreme and unforeseeable weather, sanitary and market crises; stresses that these measures should be additional to existing market management tools and should not undermine existing national schemes;

31a. Calls on the Commission to reinforce risk management measures, including insurance, reinsurance schemes and other complementary funds intervening in the event of higher damage thresholds, both for preventive measures and compensation for farmers in

relation to natural disasters, epizootic outbreaks and plant diseases; considers it necessary, in this context, to include investments in prevention, early warning systems and the development of new resilience infrastructures enabling the sector to anticipate and recover from increasing climate-related risks; underlines the need for Member States to make greater use of currently underutilised risk management tools;

31b. Stresses the need to reform and increase the financial capacity of the agricultural reserve in order to address unforeseen market disturbances and climate-related events such as droughts and floods; underlines, however, that the agricultural reserve cannot be the sole instrument, and reiterates the importance of developing a broader range of risk management and rapid response tools, including more effective agricultural insurance schemes, mutual funds, climate emergency funds and extraordinary liquidity support for the European farming sector.

COMPROMISE 32 on paragraph 34 (Vulnerability of EU regions)

32. Stresses that all EU regions are impacted by the consequences of climate change; points out, however, that the southern regions are more vulnerable, suffering from desertification, drought, aquifer salinization, forest fires, as well as persistent rainfall and flooding, causing new pests and diseases, all of which threaten the agricultural sector; underlines, therefore, that farmers across the EU need specific support measures and instruments to redouble their efforts to adapt their activities to climate change and to prevent and mitigate its negative effects; draws attention to the importance of providing comprehensive support to rural communities and local authorities in achieving these goals.

COMPROMISE 33 on paragraph 34a (Organic agriculture)

33. Calls for continuous support to innovative farming techniques, including those used in organic farming and other agroecological practices, used both in organic and increasingly in conventional systems, to significantly reduce the use of inputs and external dependencies in agriculture, and strengthen autonomy and food security;

33a. Insists that the future development of the EU organic sector must be market oriented and calls for the new CAP to continue to provide incentives for farmers and new entrants to engage in organic farming; invites the Commission to examine new possibilities to deal with crises in the organics market; recalls the need to promote organic consumption also through public procurement;

COMPROMISE 34 on paragraph 35 (Minimize food waste in the agri-food chain)

34. Encourages the minimisation of food waste and loss along, the entire agri-food chain including primary producers, to ensure the efficient, innovative, and sustainable use of all resources; calls on the Commission to take measures at all levels to avoid losses and to promote the conversion of surpluses into value-added products; insists on the need to give

greater value to the food produced by farmers and the major effort that goes into obtaining it; encourages, in this regard, the Commission to promote solutions, such as the review of best-before dates and the use of natural bio-based preservatives, to extend the shelf life of food products;

34a. *Calls on the Commission to develop a comprehensive nutrient recovery strategy along the agri-food chain, with targeted support for innovation in the separation, treatment and reuse of nutrients from waste streams from food processing, retail and consumption;*

An attractive sector for new generations

COMPROMISE 35 on paragraph 36, 37, 39, 40, 41 and 43 (An attractive sector for new generations and women)

35. *Emphasises that ensuring generational renewal **and female entrepreneurship are both essential to preserve the future of EU agriculture and the socioeconomic structure of rural areas**; recognises the efforts of CAP measures to foster generational renewal, particularly in more peripheral rural areas **and stresses the need to reinforce them**; points out, however, that the CAP cannot be the only tool to bring young people **and women** into farming, but must be backed up by national strategies, **involving private sources of financing, including banks, collaborative farming arrangements and partnerships, and financial instruments with reduced or no co-financing requirements**; **insists that the vitally important objective of ensuring generational renewal in EU agriculture has to be accompanied by structural measures, particularly with regard to innovation, digitalization, digital connectivity and access to land**; **looks forward, in this regard, to the publication of the Commission's strategy on generational renewal**;*

35a. *Calls on Member States to develop coherent, **sustainable and predictable** strategies to increase the attractiveness of working in agriculture, ensuring compatibility with EU and regional policies, including their national strategic plans; **insists on the need to increase and mobilise CAP financial resources in favour of generational renewal, which currently include the additional Pillar I payment and the support for investment and installation aid available under Pillar II, as well as the creation of new financial instruments outside the CAP**; **emphasizes that these instruments should include increased tax exemptions and incentives, low-interest loans, agricultural credit guarantee schemes, subsidies for precision farming tools and training services, including on sustainable business models, aimed at improving profitability**;*

35b. *Stresses the **importance of providing diversified, tailored and independent advisory services to support young farmers and new entrants, both prior to their installation and in the following years**, particularly in soft skills, digital **and direct marketing** skills, **accounting, legal aspects**, business diversification, sustainable farming and communication; **advocates the widespread use of agricultural business incubators that enable prospective farmers to benefit from a few years of experience in a structured environment before taking over an***

independent farm; calls on the Commission and Member States to ensure that provision is made for the establishment of National Centres for the training of young farmers;

35c. *Asks the Commission to assess whether extending the eligibility for support for young farmers to the age of 45 would encourage more people to become established in agriculture, including through reskilling; calls on the Commission to also reassess other elements of the eligibility criteria which may be too restrictive;*

35d. *Welcomes the cooperation agreement with the EIB Group as a promising model that can foster the creation of financial instruments for **many aspects of the CAP, including** support for young **and female** farmers, as well as water, **market and climate resilience** policies in all Member States; **believes that the role of the EIB should primarily focus on providing low cost finance for match funding for capital items and infrastructure projects that farmers may engage in as part of a modernisation program;***

35e. *Encourages Member States to design mechanisms that facilitate the transition to a dignified **and planned** retirement; calls in particular for early retirement schemes for farmers, financed **by separate funds; requests an expansion in services that connect retiring farmers with aspiring young or new farmers, inter alia, accompanied by logistical support and legal advice** to enable the mutually beneficial transfer of farms **and ensure the continuity of knowledge and agricultural activity;***

35f. ***Calls on the Commission and the Member States to address in their generational renewal strategies the specific barriers faced by women, in particular young women, wishing to enter the agricultural sector, including issues not directly related to agriculture, such as adequate health care and social services; recognises the efforts of CAP measures to support women in agriculture, but stresses that stronger and more tailored support is needed, especially in peripheral rural areas, including access to loans, training or financial assistance to ensure real engagement and equal opportunities; urges the Member States to establish appropriate conditions for the active participation of women in representative agri-food organisations and in the management bodies of agricultural enterprises and rural women's associations; welcomes, in this regard, the forthcoming creation of the women farmers' platform as a space for dialogue and exchange of good practices to strengthen participation and equal opportunities in the agri-food sector;***

COMPROMISE 36 on paragraph 38 (Agricultural land loss)

36. ***Calls on the Commission and Member States to **urgently** address the problem of agricultural land loss **and concentration, including the lack of transparency in this market;** stresses that land leasing **in conditions of legal certainty** is a viable short-term alternative for **facilitating** access to land, as it requires fewer resources to set up and encourages generational renewal; **highlights the importance of publicly supported land-matching services and structured succession planning,** in particular for the **transmission** of land **that allows for early retirement and the continuity of farm management;** advocates that Member States adopt policies to promote **long-term stable** land leasing, thus providing security of tenure and time to invest, especially for young, **women** and new farmers, which could also improve soil health, **environmental performance and climate resilience;*****

36a. Welcomes the intention of the European Commission to launch an EU Observatory on Farmland, that must improve transparency in the agricultural land market in the EU and facilitate harmonisation on farmland data, facilitate access to land, allow cooperation and exchange of best practices between Member States, as well as provide recommendations for more informed EU policy making;

36b. Highlights that the preservation of Europe's diverse cultural landscapes is not only of ecological and touristic importance, but also a cornerstone of regional identity and long-term rural resilience; therefore calls for their explicit recognition and the integration of their preservation as a strategic objective within the post 2027 CAP.

COMPROMISE 37 on paragraph 42 (Promote the exchange of best practices)

37. Calls on the Commission to promote *partnerships for* the exchange of best practices and innovative ideas between Member States in collaboration with *local authorities*, universities, research centres and farms; emphasises that such cooperation should focus on simplification, accessibility, *increasing sustainability* and *addressing challenges specific to each region and sector and should be supported by appropriate training, thus avoiding distortions and diverging approaches that could disadvantage farmers.*

COMPROMISE 38 on paragraph 44 (Value of the agricultural sector)

38. Encourages the promotion of support and visibility programmes that reflect the enriching and fulfilling lifestyle that the agricultural sector can offer, highlighting the value and commitment of farmers to nature, food security and the specific qualities and values inherent in the work of farm professionals; *draws attention to the value of policy consistency over time as essential to enable clear long-term objectives for the farming sector;*

38a. Stresses the importance of a strong and well-funded EU promotion policy, including increased CAP budget allocations, to raise awareness of the qualities of EU agricultural and food products both within the Union and globally, and emphasises that this assumes even greater significance during periods of economic uncertainty.

Innovation to continue moving agriculture forward

COMPROMISE 39 on paragraph 45, 46 and 47 (Supporting farmers in adapting to innovation)

39. Calls for an *ambitious* investment package *for innovation, technology and applied* research adapted to farmers' *needs, financed through* the CAP, Horizon Europe, *the Digital Europe Programme* and *other support mechanisms*, which will *play a key role in fostering*

a more sustainable and adapted agricultural sector; ***stresses that the Horizon Europe programme should include a specific pillar dedicated to agriculture, geared towards promoting research, innovation and knowledge transfer in the agri-food sector;***

39a. Emphasizes the need to ensure that innovative and digital solutions can be used with equitable access across all types of farms and territories in the EU and that these solutions support sustainable agriculture, aid in managing the diversity and complexity of agroecosystems, contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, improve farmers' incomes, reduce the administrative workload for both farmers and administrations, anticipate future production conditions and are in line with the expectations of consumers and society; underlines that the use of new technologies should be supported by an appropriate legal framework in order to unleash their full potential and be subject to robust risk assessments;

39b. Calls for increased funding for applied research into sustainable and effective alternatives to conventional plant protection products and calls for a revision of the current approval procedures; highlights the need to avoid any further withdrawal from the market of plant protection products that respect established legal safety limits if alternatives are not yet available, in order to ensure that agricultural production can be maintained in a safe, sustainable manner; points to the potential of biostimulants in improving plant productivity;

39c. Stresses the importance of recognising and strengthening the role of the AKIS (Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems) model as a strategic and cross-cutting tool in the post-2027 CAP, capable of ensuring the effective dissemination of knowledge and innovations to farmers; believes that an efficient and coordinated AKIS is central to achieving key CAP objectives in terms of competitiveness, sustainable food production, climate resilience, and digital transition and must be fully integrated with national strategic plans;

39d. Recognises the importance of the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI), which has contributed to the advancement of innovation in the agri-food and forestry sector, through the creation of operational groups and the implementation of innovative projects aimed at developing cutting-edge solutions, demonstrating best practice, that improve the sustainability, resilience and competitiveness of the agri-food fabric; calls on the Commission to strengthen support for this initiative in the framework of the post-2027 CAP.

COMPROMISE 40 on paragraph 48 (Integrated Farm Management)

40. Points to the need to design a specific measure within the rural development framework, based on principles of integrated sustainable agriculture, to ***make greater use of integrated pest management***, including biocontrol, ***and the use of drones and endotherapy to optimise the application of plant protection products***, always respecting the established legal and safety limits ***and providing compensation to farmers for any financial losses suffered***; ***stresses the importance of establishing integrated farming as a commonly recognised system in the EU and of making further progress in defining and supporting sustainable and organic farming practices.***

COMPROMISE 41 on paragraph 49 (Carbon removal certification)

41. Recognises *the potential benefits of* the voluntary EU-wide framework for the certification of carbon removals *and urges the Commission to enhance access to these opportunities for the farming sector*; stresses that *carbon and nature credits could* provide a positive incentive *and additional* remuneration for farmers, particularly young farmers, *by fairly rewarding practices such as agroforestry and regenerative soil management*, which contribute to carbon capture and emissions reductions on farms; *underlines that such a certification framework has to be open and available to all farmers willing to maintain or increase the carbon storage capacity of their soils and encourages the Commission to create conditions to ensure market demand for such certificates through appropriate incentives and long-term market predictability for private sector investors*; *emphasises that carbon farming should complement, not replace, active and sustainable agricultural production*;

41a. *Calls on the Commission to promote solar energy production on farms in a way that ensures that the ownership of the installations and the benefits accrued remain with the landowner and the local community and is compatible with agricultural activity, with a view to improving farmers' ability to adapt to climate change and contribute to the stability and diversification of farmers' incomes.*

COMPROMISE 42 (Hemp)

42. *Stresses the importance of explicitly confirming the legality of cultivating, harvesting, processing and commercialization of the entire hemp plant for authorised industrial purposes across the EU in order to provide legal certainty for farmers, processors, regulators and consumers*; notes that *hemp cultivation requires relatively few inputs, especially fertilisers, plant protection products and water*; *emphasises that it also contributes to soil health and biodiversity, offering new economic opportunities, additional income and innovation to rural areas through the provision of raw materials for industrial applications such as textile fibre, and other uses like health, food and feed*; *calls on the Commission to establish a common EU-wide threshold of 0.5% THC for the legal classification of industrial hemp, ensuring harmonisation of national legislations in line with CJEU rulings and international law.*

RECITALS

COMPROMISE A on recital A and I (Food security and defence strategy)

A. whereas the common agricultural policy (CAP) is *a founding and well-established policy that* plays a strategically important role in the *current uncertain* geopolitical context *and forms a key part of the EU's food security* defence and *strategic autonomy*;

Aa. whereas the objectives of the CAP must continue to *be based on* ensuring *increased agricultural production and productivity, contributing to a fair standard of living for the agricultural community by increasing incomes, supporting the* stability, *sustainability and competitiveness* of the *EU* agricultural and forestry sectors *and contributing to rural development*; whereas *account needs to be taken of the special characteristics of agriculture*, especially in *the context of climate challenges*, crisis and conflict scenarios; whereas the CAP contributes to *and* strengthens the resilience of food production *in terms of quantity, quality and affordability for consumers, as well to the production of raw materials for various applications related to the bioeconomy*;

Ab. *whereas, in line with the European Preparedness Union Strategy, there is a need to place agriculture at the forefront of the economic and political agenda and to recognise its role as a critical component of the EU's security and defence policies; whereas productive agricultural land is therefore of strategic importance and together with soil, water, air and biodiversity quality are key factors necessary for agricultural production that must be protected.*

COMPROMISE B on recital B, C, E, AA and W (CAP objectives and structure)

B. whereas the CAP must be *strengthened, further* simplified, *made more flexible* and modernised, *while maintaining its coherent structure as well as ensuring the sustainability of EU agricultural production across its environmental, social and economic dimensions*; whereas it is essential to enable the EU's agricultural sector to *better* respond to both *active* farmers' needs and the expectations of *European* society regarding food *security*, safety and quality, climate change *mitigation and adaptation, water resilience, mental health, generational renewal and gender equality*; whereas *it is crucial to reduce* bureaucratic burdens and *to provide adequate funding for farmers, farm workers and their communities with a fair standard of living* to adapt more easily to new challenges;

Ba. whereas there is a need to *clearly* maintain the two-pillar structure of the CAP; whereas *this structure should* ensure a balance between *the income support under* Pillar I *helping farmers remain or become viable and produce for* the market, *with 100% EU financed direct payments*, and the *agri-environmental actions and investment support under well-funded* rural development in Pillar II, *supported by co-financed measures to better address specific situations*;

Bb. *whereas, in light of the ongoing discussion on the future of the MFF, it is essential to keep the CAP funds separate from others and not merge them into a single national fund, in order to preserve the community character of the CAP and to ensure equal conditions for farmers across Member States;*

Bc. *whereas the CAP reflects the diversity of EU regions, traditions and agricultural systems, including a wide range of farm structures, types of farming and products;*

Bd. *whereas any changes to the current CAP and new legislation should be introduced in a way that ensures stability in the sector and **more** legal certainty for farmers and forest owners, **who demand a simpler CAP, providing income-support, delivering sustainability and taking into account seasonal constraints and the long-term planning needs of agricultural production**; whereas such measures should **be developed in consultation with stakeholders**, avoid unnecessary administrative burdens, allow for **reasonable** transitional periods, **and be supported by adequate adaptation budgets**;*

COMPROMISE C on recital D, G, H and AR (Value of agriculture)

C. *whereas the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), as a cornerstone of the European consensus, is more relevant than ever in light of current challenges; **whereas** the CAP supports approximately 9.1 million farms across Europe, representing a 37% decrease in the number **of farms** compared to the 14.4 million recorded in 2005 **and this decline has been accompanied with a decline in farmers' income of 12% per hectare**; whereas 77% of EU citizens agree that the EU, through the CAP, fulfils its role in **ensuring** a stable supply of safe, healthy, sustainable and high-quality food **at affordable prices for 450 million consumers**; **whereas rural areas cover 83% of the EU's territory (188) and are home to 30% of the EU population**; whereas agricultural land accounts for 40% of EU territory and the agri-food sector contributes approximately 7% to the EU's GDP, employing **around 17 million people**;*

Ca. *whereas, according to Eurostat¹ **93% of farms in the EU are family-run farms** **whereas this unique European model needs to be preserved as it plays a crucial role in the vitality and economic viability of rural areas**;*

Cb. *whereas farming is more than a job, it is a way of life rooted in nature, historical, **cultural, traditional** heritage and the rural community **that** has a positive impact on society **that deserves better recognition**; whereas **the multifunctionality of agriculture in the EU** offers a wide range of opportunities for employment and business diversification in rural areas, for example through agri-tourism services, the **agri-food and bioeconomy industries** renewable energy production, **sustainable tourism**, school visits and direct sales; **whereas this multifunctionality contributes to inclusive growth, community welfare and the delivery of social, educational and health-related services in rural areas**;*

COMPROMISE D on recital F and K

¹https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Agriculture_statistics_-_family_farming_in_the_EU

D. whereas direct area payments *are essential for the economic sustainability of European agriculture, playing a crucial role in maintaining sustainable production* and ensuring that farmers receive a *fair and adequate income, thereby enhancing profitability, providing stability, and guaranteeing a minimum level of security*; whereas *increased support should be ensured for women, new, young and family farmers, small and medium-sized enterprises - particularly those operating in disadvantaged areas - as well as for sectors supported on socioeconomic or environmental grounds*;

Da. whereas it is important to ensure that *Pillar I* CAP aid payments are targeted at all active professional farmers *who derive their income either partially or entirely from agricultural production, whether on a full or part-time basis*;

Db. *whereas these direct payments should contribute to enhancing competitiveness and improving the sustainability and resilience of the EU agricultural sector, while reflecting specific needs and regional diversity; whereas the core driver of farmers' profitability must continue to be the production of healthy food, with the possibility of complementing income through activities such as energy generation, carbon capture, or sustainable tourism.*

COMPROMISE E on recital J and T (CAP budget increase)

E. *Whereas under the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027 allocations to the CAP were reduced in nominal terms and in real terms compared to the previous MFF; whereas overall EU expenditure on the CAP has declined considerably in recent years despite a significant increase in the environmental ambition of the CAP; whereas this reduction has had a significant impact on farmers' incomes*;

Ea. whereas farmers face increasing price volatility due to fluctuations in global markets *and in European production as a result of the globalised nature of the food supply chain, evidenced by the recent influx of grain from third countries and increased fertiliser prices*; whereas they also encounter macroeconomic and *geopolitical* uncertainty, health crises, *animal disease outbreaks, market concentration trends*, surpluses in certain European sectors *and the unpredictability of yields as a result of more frequent extreme weather events and natural disasters as a consequence of climate change*;

Eb. whereas European agriculture must *address new and increasing challenges and deliver on EU priorities such as food security and climate resilience*; whereas *doing so requires* an increased budget for the common agricultural policy in the next multiannual financial framework (MFF) in constant *prices as one of the EU's policy priorities in order to prevent a loss in the real-terms value of payments* and meet both current and future challenges *in the EU*;

Ec. *whereas failing to adjust the MFF for inflation could result in a loss of up to 54% of the CAP — equivalent to €250 billion by 2034 — severely undermining the EU's capacity to maintain food self-sufficiency and respond effectively to internal and global demands.*

COMPROMISE F on recital L, P, Y and AV (farmers' income - agri-food chain)

F. whereas agricultural income remains below the average for the rest of the economy in almost all Member States, standing at 47 % of average gross wages and salaries in the EU economy **and people living in urban areas generally have a higher level of income than those living in rural areas which leads to inequalities and exclusion**; whereas farmers aged 40 and under have the lowest incomes on average within the EU; **whereas the future CAP must ensure a fair remuneration and protection for farmers and farm workers enabling them to sustain production activities**, throughout the Union, including in areas facing natural constraints, **meeting quality standards and food safety requirements for the benefit of citizens**;

Fa. whereas farmers are facing high levels of work-related stress caused by long working hours, social isolation, financial uncertainty, administrative and regulatory demands, climate change events or emerging plant and animal diseases; whereas access to mental health care for farmers remains limited.

Fb. whereas it is essential to strengthen the position of farmers in the **agri-food supply chain, duly recognising their role**, and to ensure **conditions of fair competition, productivity, resilience and efficiency** in the single market; **whereas it is important to guarantee full compliance with the legislation on unfair trading practices ensuring fair payment for agricultural products, together with greater transparency in price formation and promoting better tools for managing the impacts of risks and crises; whereas external shocks and factors outside farmers' control, such as market crises or natural disasters**, affecting the competitiveness **and sustainability of farmers along the value chain**, must also be properly considered and monitored;

Fc. whereas agricultural cooperatives, created and managed by the farmers themselves, **as well as producer organisations (POs), associations of producer organisations (APOs), and local action groups** strengthen the position **of primary producers** in the production chain by combining efforts, coordinating investments and mitigating the fragmentation of the sector; **whereas the Vision on Agriculture and Food recognises that stronger collective bargaining in agriculture is crucial to making the sector more attractive**;

COMPROMISE G on recital Q, R, AE and AS (Access of young people and women to the sector)

G. **whereas the EU is still facing a generational decline in the farming sector**; whereas in 2020 the majority (57.6 %) of farmers in the EU, regardless of **gender**, were over 55 years of age while those under 35 represented approximately 6%, **of whom only 1.7% were women and** in many Member States, a very high proportion of farmers are aged 65 and over;

Ga. whereas generational renewal is essential for the future of European agriculture, food security, the prosperity of rural areas and the preservation of the rural way of life; whereas the price and limited availability of land, the generally low profitability of agricultural activity, **the structural challenges facing rural areas in relation to the investments and risks involved**, the administrative requirements and **the sector's perceived image** are **among** the main barriers to becoming a farmer; whereas attention should also be drawn to other factors, such as the lack of own capital, difficult access to credit, **especially for women and young**

farmers, the need for technical *and accompanying* services and support measures, the effects of climate change, *high input and other production costs, and the multiplication of vector-borne diseases*, all of which can constitute important barriers to the involvement of young people, *women*, and new farmers in the agricultural sector;

Gb. whereas young people, *women*, and new farmers *have the potential to* introduce new business ideas, adopt new technologies and implement sustainable farming *methods; whereas schemes that combine sustainability, technological uptake and intergenerational partnerships should be promoted to facilitate farm succession; whereas stronger synergies between youth employment initiatives, the CAP, and rural development policies are essential to support generational renewal and ensure young people remain in rural areas;*

Gc. whereas *women continue to face greater challenges in entering the farming sector and female employment rates in rural areas are consistently lower than those of men; whereas the number of farms managed by women varies significantly across Member States;* whereas *gender* equality is a fundamental principle of the EU *and* curbing rural depopulation largely depends on ensuring *equal* opportunities for women and young people; *whereas, in order to address the specific challenges faced by women in agriculture, the Commission and Member States should ensure that their particular needs are reflected within the CAP national strategic plans through targeted interventions.*

COMPROMISE H on recital S and AL (Bioeconomy)

H. whereas new rural value chains in the bioeconomy offer *new business opportunities to diversify income sources for the agricultural sector, fostering job creation and rural entrepreneurship, while promoting better use of agricultural by-products; whereas examples of the latter include energy production through on-farm biogas production or the production and processing of wool and other natural fibres; whereas, in this context, it is also important to highlight the additional income opportunities available to farmers through renewable energy production from Renewable Energy Directive (RED)-compliant sources, such as biofuels, which also contribute to strengthening the EU's energy self-sufficiency; whereas carbon farming has the potential to support the EU's climate objectives by promoting carbon sequestration in soils and biomass; whereas food and feed should however be prioritised over the other uses of agricultural products and land;*

Ha. whereas *short* production *chains* – with production, processing and packaging being carried out in the same region – help retain added value locally and thus secure more jobs in the area; whereas such place-based, *territorially-embedded, resilient and sustainable* agri-food systems *reduce reliance on external inputs, reinforce EU food security and contribute to the revitalisation of* rural areas.

COMPROMISE I on recital U, X, AQ and AK (Strategic sectors - crisis management)

I. whereas it is essential *to avoid negative impacts on EU agricultural production* by promoting flexible and effective tools to support the most *vulnerable* and strategic sectors *when faced with challenges arising from* structural changes, *natural and meteorological*

disasters, especially in the context of climate change, market imbalances, the adoption of trade agreements, as well as the potential consequences for the EU agricultural sector of the implementation of new EU policies;

Ia. whereas these challenges may have direct *consequences for food security and rural economies and communities*, and therefore *it is vital to* improve risk prevention, management and adaptation, *including through* enhanced *and adapted* mechanisms and infrastructure *supported by financial resources outside the CAP;*

Ib. whereas the CAP should recognise the significant environmental benefits provided by *sustainable agriculture and livestock farming*, to which practices and crops such as *forestry, agro-forestry, beekeeping, protein and woody crops, organic farming, textile fibres and emerging sectors such as the bioeconomy also contribute;* whereas sectoral strategies for fruit and vegetables, *wine, olive oil, table olives, potatoes, sugar beet and beekeeping should be maintained and protected;*

COMPROMISE J on recital V and AD (Water - droughts)

J. whereas, according to the European Environment Agency, drought has caused annual economic losses of up to EUR 9 billion in the EU *and might reach up to EUR 28.6 billion by 2100, on top of losses caused by other climate change effects;* *whereas farmers across the EU experience climate change first hand, witnessing increasing desertification and a loss in agricultural productivity, with particular challenges for the Mediterranean regions;* *whereas extreme weather events, such as increasingly severe floods and droughts, put EU food security at risk;*

Ja. whereas agriculture, water and *soil* are intrinsically linked; whereas *the availability and sustainable management of these natural resources* is vital to ensure sufficient and good quality food production;

COMPROMISE JA (Renure)

Jb. *whereas efficient nutrient use is essential to reducing the EU's dependency on chemical fertilisers, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and improving soil health;* *whereas the Nitrates Directive, in its current form, restricts the use of processed animal manure, including RENURE products, despite scientific evidence supporting their safe application;* *whereas the Joint Research Centre (JRC) has concluded that replacing synthetic mineral fertilisers with RENURE does not lead to increased nitrate losses to water;* *whereas this creates unnecessary regulatory barriers for farmers aiming to close nutrient cycles and reduce environmental impacts.*

COMPROMISE K on recital Z and AF (Reciprocity / Trade)

K. whereas the *growing instability* in world trade *makes it necessary to adapt the EU's* trade *policy* and international trade rules, in particular, within the World Trade Organization (WTO) *framework*, to *safeguard the Union's agri-food systems by ensuring* fair and sustainable conditions of competition, based on reciprocity and effective trade defence;

Ka. whereas the importation *into the Union* of agricultural products *that are produced to lower standards and with lower production costs* than those produced in the EU - *characterised by the highest standards* - is an obstacle to *our producers'* ability to obtain fair prices and profitability on the market; *whereas this poses potential risks* to public, *plant and animal* health, *including from the spread of pests and diseases*; *whereas there is a need to ensure reciprocity in international trade agreements*;

Kb. *whereas it is necessary to modernise the physical and digital infrastructure underpinning the efficient export of EU agri-food products to strengthen the resilience of EU agriculture by creating diversified export markets.*

COMPROMISE L on recital AB and AC (Nutrition - proteins)

L. whereas the World Health Organization recommends *including legumes, fruits and vegetables as well as* a moderate consumption of *proteins, including those of animal origin*, as part of a varied and balanced diet; *whereas meat and other animal products are* a valuable source of high-biological-value protein and essential micronutrients; *whereas sustainable* livestock farming *makes important contributions to* biodiversity protection, *forest* fire prevention, *landscape maintenance*, soil nutrient provision, food security *and to national cultures and heritage*; *whereas the Commission, in its Communication on the Long-Term Vision for the EU's Rural Areas, has acknowledged the importance of developing a long-term strategy for the livestock sector and has announced the launch of a dedicated work stream on this issue*; *whereas targeted investments in breeding techniques and other innovative solutions can reduce emissions from livestock while safeguarding productivity and animal welfare.*

La. whereas approximately 70 % of *raw materials for the manufacturing of the* protein-rich feed needed in the Union *has to be* imported from third countries *because the EU has a significant deficit in plant protein production*; *whereas the* European Parliament and the Member States *have repeatedly called for a meaningful EU protein strategy to* increase the production of protein crops in the EU *to reduce this high degree of dependence*;

COMPROMISE M on recital AG, AH, AI, AJ and AT (Innovation)

Ma. *whereas reinforced synergies are needed with other EU instruments, such as Horizon Europe and cohesion policy, to facilitate the integration of research outputs into practical, locally-tailored agricultural solutions, promote innovation and foster economic development*; *whereas enhanced connectivity, improved digital skills and the deployment of autonomous technologies in rural areas are essential to enhance the sector's competitiveness and climate resilience and make rural areas more appealing to younger generations and qualified professionals*;

Mb. whereas most biotechnology research is currently conducted outside the European Union; whereas such research often focuses on agro-economic issues that are only *partially relevant to the EU context*, resulting in potential losses in *both investment and opportunities for EU farmers*; whereas *the EU should therefore invest in developing biotechnology adapted to its own agricultural needs* ; whereas *the withdrawal of plant protection products without the availability of effective alternatives exposes farmers to pests and diseases, reduces their profitability and competitiveness, increases food waste and poses a threat to food security*;

Mc. whereas the EU has developed a series of space programmes (EGNOS and Galileo) and earth observation programmes (Copernicus), which have significant potential to support the monitoring of CAP implementation *in order to empower farmers and foresters with accurate data on the land they manage, and, where appropriate, to simplify and reduce administrative burden*.

COMPROMISE N on recital AM, AN, AO, AU (Rural areas / POSEI)

N. *whereas the EU's rural areas cover 83% of the EU territory and are home to 137 million people*; whereas the future and prosperity of rural areas are of paramount importance for Europe's food security, autonomy and resilience; whereas agri-food systems allowed continued access to safe and high-quality food during the recent crises *despite inflation putting pressure on food affordability*; whereas *policies need to support both agriculture as a core activity and economic diversification through the development of sustainable rural tourism, small businesses, crafts and local services, in order for rural regions to be viable and attractive*; whereas *energy production can create additional revenue streams for farmers but should have no impact on food production*; whereas *LEADER and community-led local development has proved a valuable tool for sustainable development and is at the core of EU policies*; whereas *the CAP alone cannot provide solutions to all the needs and challenges faced by rural areas*;

Na. whereas *the CAP should play a part in the harmonious development of the Union by bolstering economic, social and territorial cohesion and must therefore continue to compensate areas with natural constraints, such as mountainous, arid, island, border and outermost and disadvantaged regions*, for the extra costs associated with their *geographical or demographic* constraints, in order to *avoid an abandonment of agricultural activity and consequent depopulation* in such areas; whereas *it is vital to acknowledge the important role that farmers play in these territories, ensuring environmental, economic and social services*;

Nb. *whereas outermost regions face specific challenges due to their geographical situation*; whereas the POSEI programme *applies interventions of Pillar I of the CAP, adapted to the specificities of the outermost regions*; whereas *it is of vital importance for maintaining agricultural activity and ensuring the supply of food and agricultural products in these regions (611)*; whereas POSEI's implementation is important and has been a success, *notably in terms of increasing production intended for local consumption*, as demonstrated by the European Commission's implementation reports between 2006 and 2014 and between 2015 and 2019; whereas, however, POSEI budget allocations have not been revised since 2007, which has resulted in a cumulative depreciation of at least 36 % due to inflation; *whereas this*

has significantly limited the level of EU support available to farmers in the outermost regions, and, whereas, there is a clear need to recalibrate the POSEI financial allocations to compensate for this depreciation.

COMPROMISE O on recital M and N (Obligations and incentives)

O. whereas, through the CAP, European farmers have made **significant** efforts to integrate environmental **and climate** objectives compatible with the requirements laid down in Union legislation **to adapt the agricultural sector to the increasing challenges and crises caused by climate change; whereas farmers are already on the front line and are playing a key role in safeguarding the environment and the soil in the face of climate change and, according to estimates, between 2005 and 2023, agricultural GHG emissions in the EU followed an overall downward trend of 7%²;**

Oa. whereas it is essential to ensure that CAP conditionality requirements and environmental commitments take into account the diversity of agriculture in the EU and do not impose disproportionate administrative burdens on farmers, especially the most vulnerable ones; whereas a better balance needs to be struck between the obligatory nature of certain measures and an incentive-based system that enables farmers to voluntarily adopt more sustainable farming practices, without leading to a reduction in food production, thus ensuring their competitiveness and profitability and granting enough flexibility to allow for locally appropriate solutions.

² <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/indicators/greenhouse-gas-emissions-from-agriculture>