

The 10 red lines that make the Commission's MFF/CAP proposals unacceptable to EU farming

For many months, European farmers and cooperative organisations at Copa-Cogeca have been setting out clear red lines — and **raising the alarm about the way the MFF 2028–2034 and CAP reform were taking shape**. Above all, and together with the actors of the agri-food chain, we have been asking for recognition that without a secure, common approach to agriculture, there can be no lasting stability - not for farmers, not for the whole chain, and not for Europe.

On 16 July, the Commission crossed far too many red lines, as such posing an existential threat to our sectors, to the integrity of the Single Market, and to the food security of 450 million Europeans.

Instead of concrete proposals implementing a clear vision and a compass, we were given grand speeches and political action pointing in the opposite direction. **Food security must remain a top political priority in such uncertain times, where security is a key priority for the EU.** Agriculture cannot be sidelined in the Commission's priorities nor treated as a balancing variable. Therefore we consider the Commission's approach to be strategic and historic misstep.

For the first time in more than 60 years of engagement in agricultural policy, we, the European farming organisations, find these proposals unacceptable and cannot endorse them.

At least 10 common sense red lines have been crossed, that make the proposals untenable and unacceptable:

A MFF proposed structure that runs counter to the Treaty provisions: By folding the CAP into a Single Fund, the Commission undermines EU Treaty provisions and the very structure which safeguards Europe's food security.

20% less budget for the CAP that doesn't match needs and ambitions: Agriculture will be on the front line of the transitions in an increasingly uncertain context. Yet these cuts lower bring agricultural support to less than 15% of total EU expenditure are completely disconnected from today's economic, social, geopolitical and climate realities.

A major backward step in EU history - the erosion of the CAP's common character: The dismantling of CAP's common nature signals the end of a level playing field among Member States and farmers, it threatens the integrity and functioning of the Single Market, while weakening the key role of the co-legislators.

The end of the two-pillar CAP structure kills complementarity and predictability: Merging the EAGF and EAFRD into a Single Fund and ringfencing only part of the CAP support effectively sacrifices rural development, investment, competitiveness, sustainability and territorial cohesion.

An implementation that will lead to more complexity, administrative burden and costs: Instead of simplification, the "Single national plan" approach will lead to massive and costly administrative reorganisation and complexity in the decision-making structure and process, just adding more confusion and uncertainty for farmers and cooperatives.

Unrealistic income framework putting at risk a common cross-EU approach: The introduction of differentiated co-financing levels and a broader use of Member States additional financial contributions for measures that are 100% funded in the current CAP threatens farmers' income, distorts competition and leads to loss of commonality for the policy.

Rigid tools not respecting the diversity of our agriculture: A nonsensical approach to area-based income support via degressivity and capping ignores the need to support all farmers genuinely contributing to food security.

Improvement of farmers' position in the food supply chain is undermined: More sectors will be forced to compete for fewer resources in operational programmes, while flexibility for additional national contributions risks creating disparities among EU's farmers, cooperatives and Producer Organisations.

A regression in the EU consultation process : The completely inadequate method pursued by the Commission (no proper consultation, no policy options, no impact assessment) in preparing this reform is unprecedented, disappointing and unacceptable.

Eroding the EU's strategic autonomy and increasing our dependencies: By not securing its agricultural sector as the cornerstone of that security with a strong, common, and well-funded agricultural policy.

MEPs and Member States must not allow these flawed proposals to be forced through. An alternative is both possible and necessary — one that respects the individuality of the CAP, its two-pillar structure, and that secures a dedicated, inflation-proof budget, staying true to EU treaty provisions.

**Co-legislators, don't accept the
UNACCEPTABLE.**

Our food security
is at risk, don't
accept the
unacceptable.

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european agri-cooperatives



ON THE MFF/CAP PROPOSALS

ALL RED LINES HAVE BEEN CROSSED, PRESIDENT!