

PROPOSAL OF CONCLUSIONS ON THE CONGRESS “THE CAP GREEN ARCHITECTURE POST 2020: DEEPING INTO ECO-SCHEMES”

Zafra, 29-31 May 2019

On 29, 30 and 31 May, the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture organised in Zafra (Spain), a Congress on the CAP post 2020 Green Architecture under the title "Deeping into eco-schemes".

Representatives of the European Commission and its Member States, the Romanian and Finnish Presidencies, research and technology centres from Spain, Portugal and France, as well as farmers, environmental organisations and civil society took part.

The Congress debated the environmental challenges facing European agriculture, and delved into the environmental reality of the southern countries. Experiences developed to improve the adaptation of agriculture to environmental changes, the improvement of resource use or the enhancement of biodiversity on farms were also presented.

The following conclusions were reached as a result of the discussions:

1. The proposal for the future CAP reinforces its environmental and climatic aspects, which are covered by the so-called "green architecture" and provides opportunities for our agriculture and environment, responding to the expectations of European consumers and citizens.
2. This increased environmental ambition of the CAP post 2020 has been widely shared by the participants, in line with the international commitments undertaken by the European Union and the different Member States in this field and in the fight against climate change.
3. Similarly, throughout the discussions it has become clear that the new delivery model proposed in the reform, which is results-oriented, will allow for a better analysis of needs and will promote the programming of environmentally beneficial interventions. This will require simple management for farmers and competent authorities, and an uncomplicated performance evaluation system.
4. The new model must make it possible to take account of the specificities of the different agricultures that make up the European map, while at the same time ensuring that the common character of the CAP is preserved.
5. Similarly, the need to ensure balance and coherence between all environmental interventions in the future strategic plans of the new CAP has been underlined.

6. The importance of eco-schemes as an incentive instrument for farmers to move towards a more sustainable and competitive agricultural system capable of responding to citizens' demands has also been highlighted.
7. Eco-schemes must remunerate practices that go beyond the minimum environmental requirements of the European Union, as well as the public services generated.
8. On the other hand, they must be flexible and simple, so as to accommodate the different Community productive realities, without generating excessive administrative burdens. Such flexibility is essential in order to reflect the reality of regions particularly affected by the effects of climate change, such as those in southern Europe.
9. The initiatives taken by farmers to respond to environmental challenges, many of which were presented during the Congress, demonstrate the involvement of producers. They are the main driving force towards a more sustainable agricultural model, which is demanded by European society.