

Developing Better Organic Systems

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**The European organic movement's
position on CAP reform**

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Evolution of the CAP

- Objective “*Securing food supply*”
 - Post-war narrative
 - European supra-national bloc
- Yoked to a “*productivity at-all-costs*” model
 - In the interests of a developing agri-business & food industry
 - Where does the power lie? (Oxford Farming Conference!)
- Surplus, environmental damage, social upheaval, food quality decline
 - Loss of diversity, diet, culture, environment
 - Costs imposed on environment, health, welfare, society – ‘Externalisation’

EU Commissioners

- Mansholt
 - Consolidation – small & many farms bad
 - Efficiency defined in relation to unlimited resource availability
- Fischler
 - Surplus, environmental damage, Health Check
- Fisher-Boel
 - Food qualities, market drivers
- Ciolos
 - Respond to challenges – environment, diversity, small farmers, rural development

Challenge & response

- Challenges
 - Environmental – notably climate change
 - Deliver public goods
 - Diversity & rural development
 - Social Cohesion
 - Policy Coherence for Development (PCD)
- Different narratives now dictate new responses
 - ‘Productivity’ vs. ‘Sufficiency’ narratives
 - Food security vs. food sovereignty
 - A larger Europe, small farmers (Ciolos is RO)
 - Working with nature & diversity vs. domination, subjugation, uniformity, aridity

European Organic Movement & CAP

- IFOAM and IFOAM EU
 - Sector representation
 - EU27, EFTA, accession, neighbourhood
 - Civil society, working with others with shared vision
- Take opportunity of organic mention in CAP to push 'enhancement of CAP' in our direction
 - IFOAM EU position developed with members
- Remain broadly critical and sceptical
 - But look on the bright side?

IFOAM EU Core demands – 1

- Organic-in-Greening
 - Explicit recognition of whole-farm environmental benefits of organic, so these wider (public good) benefits should be part of organic payment calculation
- Greening 1st pillar must not be the fig leaf
 - Beneath which targeted payments in 2nd pillar are stripped
 - Too general & unspecific to give environmental benefit
 - Organic increases sustainability & goes far beyond the fig leaf
- Greening 1st pillar must be more ambitious:
 - 3-crop rotation, to include 1 protein crop
 - No one crop >50% of all arable
 - Protection of permanent grassland based on appropriate stocking density

IFOAM EU Core demands – 2

- Sufficient funding
 - Strengthen 2nd pillar budget (50% of CAP budget)
 - Ring-fence 50% RDP budget to measures that deliver on environmental objectives (evidence)
- Organic mandatory in RDPs: eligible for 80% EU co-funding (90% post-'04 new members)
- RDPs in each MS must specify how synergy between organic & other RD measures will be maxed to give benefit to environment and rural economy

27 recommendations

- Diversity of grasslands – ‘permanent pasture’ – protect historic un-ploughed and HNV
 - But avoid unintended restriction on ley/arable with grass/legume
- Where land re-seeded, require grass/legume mixtures
- Unused direct payment funds unused where sufficient farms fail to fulfill greening criteria
 - Redirect to 2nd pillar & earmark for agri-environment-climate & organic support

..... and more

- Farmers over 40 – why discriminate?
- Active farmer? Reject the idea that activity is merely defined as ‘maintenance in a state suitable for farming’
 - Target agricultural activity, landscape management, environmental protection etc.
- ‘Cooperation’ and ‘Producer Group’ measures
 - Prioritise organic – generic, diverse, not product specific
- Innovation & knowledge transfer – European Innovation Partnerships (EIP)
 - Organic can play a role since EIP fosters *‘integrated, comprehensive & sustainable’* approaches

Key messages

- Different model – food and farming policy must be transformative
 - CAP proposals lack the vision & measures
 - Not consistent with scale of challenges
 - Not in line with the demands of society
- Organic is now in the mix, but needs lobby power
- Can CAP respond?
 - No: The forces of darkness persist
 - Not facing up to the end of cheap energy
 - Protect agri-business & corporate interests (CAP still yoked)
 - Co-decision – new opportunities for advocacy & lobby
 - ENV ministers reject biodiversity – a sign of things to come
 - Yes: Recognition of need for change at all levels
 - If EP, Council, COM & Member States make the best of the organic option
 - ‘Organic’ mentioned by name – policy/political recognition (Ciolos)
 - Co-decision – new opportunities for advocacy & lobby

Thank you

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