

## Press Release

### Global and European challenges demand fully funded CAP

Europe's need for rural productivity and sustainability cannot be achieved without additional budget resources even in the face of a Brexit deficit. Rather than splitting diminished resources, EU leaders should commit to European cooperation and increase the overall EU budget.

*"We welcome the Commission's Communication on the future of food and farming and share the belief that direct payments - their purpose, targeting, and allocation between Member States - must be better justified. However, instead of focusing on passive 'income support', the CAP should actively steer European agriculture towards innovation, investment and resource efficiency, especially in the context of climate change. The time has come for a 21st century CAP,"* said Thierry de l'Escaille, Secretary General of the European Landowners' Organizations.

The ELO applauds the Commission for explaining the need for an appropriately funded CAP beyond 2020. Farmers and land managers primarily produce food, but they are also the stewards of our landscapes, natural resources and provide environmental benefits to the European public. They should be rewarded for these services.

Land management requires EU support for four reasons: i) climate protection, natural resources, biodiversity and landscapes have a trans-European dimension; ii) farmers have to deal with highly concentrated farm input, food processing and retail sectors; iii) growing volatility in (global) production, markets and prices; iv) the unbalanced socio-economic development between urban and rural areas as well as within the countryside.

The most radical thinking in the paper concerns the new decentralised delivery model which aims to bolster environmental care and climate action. It consolidates cross compliance, greening, agri-environmental and climate actions and devolves their delivery and control to the Member States. We look forward to discussing how this devolution could deliver sensible subsidiarity and avoid dangerous divergence and distortions of the internal market.

While we share the Commission's desire for generational renewal, we believe that the only enduring way to incentivise the next generation of farmers is to make sure the industry is profitable. This primary objective must be supported by wider rural development and much-needed rural infrastructure upgrades.

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**About the ELO:** The European Landowners' Organization (ELO), created in 1972, is a unique federation of national associations from the 28 EU Member States and beyond, which represents the interests of landowners, land managers and rural entrepreneurs at the European political level. Independent and non-profit making, the ELO is the only organization able to stand for all rural entrepreneurs with over 50 member organizations. The ELO promotes a prosperous countryside through private property dynamism. Its Secretariat is based in Brussels.