

Citizens' summary

Agriculture in Europe after 2013

WHY DOES THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP) NEED A REFORM?

The CAP needs reforming:

- so as to better address the challenges of:
 - food security
 - climate change and sustainable management of natural resources
 - looking after the countryside and keeping the rural economy alive.
- to **help the farming sector become more competitive** and to deal with the economic crisis and increasingly unstable farm-gate prices.
- to **make the policy fairer, greener, more efficient and more effective and more understandable.**

WHO WILL BENEFIT AND HOW?

- **Everyone** will benefit from greater food security, a better environment, action to fight climate change, and a living countryside.
- **Farmers and rural areas** will benefit from a more balanced, equitable and stable policy, and new investment opportunities.

WHY DOES ACTION HAVE TO BE TAKEN AT EU LEVEL?

- The **challenges** facing the EU farming sector go **beyond national borders** and require common rules and action, in particular relating to food supplies.
- **Farmers in all EU countries compete on the single EU market** - it is up to the EU to ensure a level playing field and that the market functions properly.

WHAT EXACTLY WILL CHANGE?

- All aspects of the CAP should change to cope with the challenges mentioned above.
- **Direct payments** to farmers will:
 - better reflect the public service that farmers provide (e.g. efforts to protect the environment)
 - help support farming even in the most disadvantaged areas
 - be more fairly distributed, and aimed at active farmers.
- **Market management tools** will be simplified.
- **Rural development policy** will focus on **increasing competitiveness** and **promoting innovation.**
- New options will be introduced to help farmers cope with **price and income volatility.**

WHEN IS THE PROPOSAL LIKELY TO COME INTO EFFECT?

Proposals for new rules are expected in mid 2011. The new rules should come into effect in **2014.**