The common agricultural policy (CAP) is one of the EU’s longest-standing common policies, constantly evolving to meet the changing needs of European agriculture in an increasingly globalised world. Simplifying this policy is a core element of the future of food and farming.

**SAME DESTINATION...**

The CAP has always been a common policy, applied across all EU countries. This will continue in the future, with the overarching goals of the policy set at the European level. A panoply of tools to help meet these goals will also be available.

**... DIFFERENT ROADS...**

There are many possible routes to reaching these goals, and each EU country needs flexibility to adapt the tools to its local reality. We are moving from a one-size-fits-all to a tailor-made approach: greater responsibilities for EU countries to decide what they need and how to achieve it in the form of national CAP strategic plans to be submitted to the Commission.

**... WITH CHECKPOINTS ALONG THE WAY**

This also means ensuring that everyone continues to move in the right direction. The EU will have a clear responsibility to monitor the progress, check it is still on the right track and each Member State will have to prove that the EU funding is having the desired result and is managed in a sound way, and be accountable for ensuring that the common destination is reached. The Commission’s scrutiny of the national/regional plans will guarantee the coherence of the internal market and a level playing field for European farmers.