Is the CAP „reformable“ towards 2020?

Lessons learnt from the design, negotiation and implementation of 2013 reform

Samuel Féret
Coordinator ARC2020
Scottish Crofters Federation
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# What did we learn from the 2013 CAP reform?
- CAP design
- CAP negotiation
- CAP implementation

# What can we expect for the CAP towards 2020?
- CAP simplification and modernisation
- Is the CAP reformable towards 2020?
- What should we do from now?
CAP design

- Any new/future CAP is embedded into the last one > path dependency > changes as responses to specific circumstances or new rules
- Progressivity of policy changes
- EC has the initiative’ power to propose CAP reform to the Council and EP > is CAP a priority of the EC? How bold is the Ag Csser?
- If yes, what’s the rationale of any reform proposal? > distribution & targeting of subsidies > convergence > greening > incomes > markets... ?
- Public debate & role of civil society
- 2013 lesson : how to legitimate 40 Bio EUR spent on direct payments for farmers?
CAP negotiation

- A very extensive and technical process from Oct. 2011 to... April 2014 within 4 regulations (CMO, DP, RD, HZ)

- EP as a new policy maker but despite the ‘Parlementarization’ of the CAP reform, the Council remains the main actor/driver

- 28 MS + EP + EC to negotiate a very complex and technical sectoral policy: can a one size fits all work?

- MS have negotiated a lot of options so to get free hands to implement what they want for their farmers, sectors, LFAs...

- CAP means ‘A la Carte’ Policy and flexibility is a great political outcome as MS are divided on the Common menu (De-Europeanisation of the CAP)
2013’ CAP implementation

Source: Ecorys, 2016
Is the CAP reformable in 2020?

- Ag is not a top priority of the current EC > Mandate of Csser Hogan is to simplify & modernise but not reform the CAP

- Simplification is complex as in the end MS want more flexibilities to decide at national level

- Omnibus regulation to adjust few technical questions raised by MS > active farmers, young farmers, risk management tools

- CAP consultation > However Csser Hogan has already outlined few key priorities > risk management > renewal of generations > environment

New EC, Csl and EP in 2019 will be evaluating next CAP reform
Is the CAP reformable in 2020?

Among the reasons why any new CAP reform by 2020 (2021-2027) period remains very uncertain:

- Future of the EU will depend on the national elections in NL, FR and D in 2017
- Brexit talks will last at least two years (2017-2019)
- Then MS will have to negotiate Multi-Financial Framework 2021-2028 or 2022-2029
- Implementation of current CAP can continue till 2021 or 2022: inertia of CAP is strong, "CAP reform fatigue"
- Assumption for a next CAP reform in 2021 or 2022 to be seriously explored
What should we do from now?

• Let assume that a perfect CAP does not exist.
  > within & outside the CAP framework our collective task is to improve functionment of food systems towards sustainability.

• In the current period of uncertainty and populisms, the most important is to defend EU values: cooperation, cohesion, solidarity, sustainability.

• Without CAP anymore, situation of EU farmers would be much worse.
  > CAP is somehow „desperately needed“ for a huge majority of farmers living in LFAs or getting low farmgate prices, as income support remains a key objective of the EU Treaty.
What do we need towards 2020?

- Continue to lobby for a better distribution of EU supports towards small-scale farming & agroecological practices (national level)
- RD prog. = framework to ensure community and regional prosperity and resilience (national level)
- Ensuring a fairer trade and a better functionment of the food chain
- Boost civil society engagement at national level for better food and farming policies
- Promote a system approach in policy making
- Initiate and strengthen alliances in the EU inc. policy makers (soft power)
Thank you for your attention!

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