

Mara-Daria Cojocaru: Europe should end factory farming

Background information on existing regulations/policy issues/initiatives

Keywords: *agriculture and cattle industry; animal husbandry; animal rights; animal shelter; animal welfare; Common Agricultural Policy; EU agricultural policy; organic farming*

Topic: CAP-instruments that support a far-reaching transformation of animal husbandry

Overview

- Financial support for producers under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is directly linked to compliance with animal welfare standards. Non-compliance can result in loss of financial aid (see
- The CAP provides special support grants for farmers who exceed minimum standards of animal welfare and animal housing as stipulated in Community law (see Council Directive 98/58/EC¹ and The European Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for Farming Purposes²)
 - However, organizations such as Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) have criticized that between 2014 and 2020 only 0.5% of the CAP budget will be used for animal welfare payments³

In Detail

Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005

Content: Lays down the EUs priorities regarding rural development and stipulates that “farmers should continue to be encouraged to adopt high standards of animal welfare by providing support for farmers who undertake to adopt standards of animal husbandry, which go beyond the relevant mandatory standards”

Summary: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32013R1305>

Comment: <https://www.euractiv.com/section/agriculture-food/opinion/cap-and-animal-welfare-simply-incompatible/>

Council Directive 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes

Content: This Directive lays down minimum standards for the protection of animals bred or kept for farming purposes.

Summary: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A31998L0058>

¹ See: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:31998L0058>

² See:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/aw_european_convention_protection_animals_en.pdf

³ See: <https://www.greens-efa.eu/files/doc/docs/8d11c783cb0dea211fdaff70b5a0e266.pdf>

Comment: <http://www.lawyersforanimalprotection.eu/2016/09/08/implementation-of-council-directive-9858ec-concerning-the-protection-of-animals-kept-for-farming-purposes/>

Topic: Organic farming under the CAP

Overview

According to the EU, under the new CAP as of 2014 “greening’ of 30% of direct payments to farmers will be linked to three environmentally-friendly farming practices: crop diversification, maintaining permanent grassland and conserving 5%, and later 7%, of areas of ecological interest as from 2018 or measures considered to have at least equivalent environmental benefits”⁴

- Moreover, “at least 30% of the rural development programmes⁵ budget under the CAP will have to be allocated to agri-environmental measures, support for organic farming or projects associated with environmentally friendly investment or innovation measures.”
 - However, organic farmers have criticized that “that less than 30% of EU spending went to environmental measures while green investments account for almost 1.5%”⁶

In detail

Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91

Content: Brought organic livestock and livestock produce within the ambit of EU rules. These standards have been developed to provide organic producers with clear rules as to how organic food should be produced to meet consumers' demands.

Summary: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:189:0001:0023:EN:PDF>

Comment: http://www.ifoam-eu.org/sites/default/files/page/files/ifoameu_reg_regulation_dossier_201204_en.pdf

Topic: Movements or parties that push for obligatory animal welfare

To varying degrees, the following organizations are concerned with the tightening of animal welfare laws within the EU:

- Compassion in World Farming (CIWF)
<https://www.ciwf.org.uk>
- Eurogroup for Animals
<http://www.eurogroupforanimals.org>
- European Enforcement Network
<http://www.lawyersforanimalprotection.eu>
- The European Parliament’s Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals
<http://www.animalwelfareintergroup.eu>

⁴ See: https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/eu-funding/eu-funding-and-the-new-cap_en

⁵ See: https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020_en

⁶ See: <https://www.euractiv.com/section/agriculture-food/news/organic-farmers-call-for-sustainability-driven-cap-payments/>

- The Greens/ European Free Alliance (EFA)
<https://www.greens-efa.eu/en/>

Topic: Recent studies or whitepapers pertaining to organic farming and/or the abolishment of factory farming

- Foundations instead of pillars: Proposals for a reorientation of EU agricultural policy (GERMAN only) http://www.martin-haeusling.eu/images/attachments/GAP_WebundMail_end.pdf
 - For short summary: <https://www.euractiv.com/section/agriculture-food/news/new-german-study-backs-further-agricultural-reform/>
- Factory farming in Europe: the impacts and our demands of the Common Agricultural Policy: https://friendsoftheearth.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/cap_briefing_2012.pdf
- CAP 2014-2020: Organic Farming and the Prospects for Stimulating Public Goods: http://www.ifoam-eu.org/sites/default/files/ifoameu_study_organic_farming_cap_2014_2020_final.pdf
- CAP: Thinking Out of the Box Further modernisation of the CAP – why, what and how?: http://www.risefoundation.eu/images/files/2017/2017_RISE_CAP_Full_Report.pdf

Topic: Related recent statements by EU politicians or animal welfare/organic farming advocates

Martin Häusling (MEP, Alliance '90/The Greens/European Green Party):

“Despite these measures [producer aid linked to animal welfare], the CAP has not contributed to significantly improve the welfare of animals. Only a very small percentage of the yearly CAP spending is effectively dedicated to animal welfare. An animal husbandry which meets the species specific needs of animals would make sense both from the ethical and socio-economic point of view. Higher animal welfare standards can bring a competitive advantage since European consumers are generally willing to pay more for meat, milk or eggs from high quality produce. The boom of organic products is the best evidence for this”⁷

Francesca Porta (Eurogroup for Animals):

“The current CAP is not delivering according to its objectives and there is evidence that its subsidies have been used to build facilities which have deteriorated the welfare”⁸

Jan Plagge (President of the German organic farmers' association “Bioland”):

The few positive moves – such as increased investment support connected to organic farming and agri-environment-climate schemes, a clear message that new Innovation Partnerships must support a transition to agro-ecological approaches, and the introduction of an extra article governing support schemes for organic farming – can only have an impact if there is significant funding allocated to Pillar 2”⁹

⁷ See: <http://www.animalwelfareintergroup.eu/2017/05/18/opportunities-for-animal-welfare-within-the-review-of-the-cap/>

⁸ See above

⁹ See: <http://www.arc2020.eu/where-does-the-cap-reform-leave-organic-agriculture/>