



**RURAL EUROPEAN PLATFORM**  
*connecting grassroots and policy*

- stable farmer income
- regional development
- biodiversity, natural beauty
- open space

---

## **The CAP after 2014: shaping a regional agricultural policy for Europe**

*Contributions to the Health Check of the EU CAP*

---

### **REP Workshop Porto (Vairão) 2 & 3 October 2008**

The Porto meeting will explore the new services the countryside can provide to the cities, the new opportunities for the agricultural sector, and the need for sectoral cooperation within a territorial context in Europe, given the reconfiguration of urban and rural territories resulting also from the process of globalisation.

The Health Check of the CAP provides great opportunities for Europe to rethink and redirect the CAP towards a territorial based policy. A territorial based CAP allows to articulate the CAP with other EU and national sectoral policies, to internalize social, economic, and environmental externalities, and to achieve effective and cost effective rural development. Such an approach can much better contribute to achieve innovation and sustainable economic growth in Europe, in line with the Lisbon Agenda, than the present CAP.

The Porto meeting is organized by Dr. Leonardo Costa of the Porto Catholic University, on request of the Rural European Platform (REP) and in cooperation with the Versatile Countryside movement, inviting also other networks and relevant EU Interreg projects. It will take place in Porto the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of October of 2008

Two main topics will be addressed in the meeting:

- i) Changes affecting agricultural policy, and
- ii) Responses to change i.e. the design of a new territorial CAP.

The outcome of the meeting will be published as the REP transitional paper nr.2. This paper will be used as a pre-advice for the Versatile Countryside movement which will be addressed by Mariann Fischer Boel in The Netherlands on October 24.

## **Thursday, October 2nd**

**9.15-9.30: Opening by REP**

### **Agents of change**

**9.30-10.15: Carsten Daugbjerg** (Dep. of Political Science, University of Aarhus):

#### **Change in global trade: The CAP and the WTO**

*The architecture of the WTO agricultural agreements. How does the WTO influence the evolution of the CAP? How does the agricultural agreement constrain the evolution of the CAP and what opportunities for policy innovation does it provide?*

**10.15-11.00: Arlindo Cunha** (Fac. of Economics and Management, Catholic University of Porto):

#### **Changes in farming policy: The Health Check of the CAP**

*The Health Check of the CAP is underway. What are the drivers of the Health Check? What is at stake? Which outcome to expect and how will it be related with the post 2013 policy scenarios? Which roles should have the EU, the Member States, and the Regions in a new CAP?*

**11.00-11.30:** Coffee break

**11.30-12.15: Dimitris Diakosawas** (Trade & Agriculture Directorate, OECD):

#### **Agricultural and Trade Policy Reform: Implications for the Rural Economy**

*How will policy reform affect the economic performance of rural areas? How far can agricultural policy reform improve coherence with rural development policy objectives?*

**12.15-13.15:** Lunch

**13.15-14.00: Teresa Andersen** (CIBio University of Porto):

#### **Rural-urban changes: urban demands and urban sprawl**

*Citizens have new demands and urban sprawl in Europe is a challenge. What is the extension of the phenomena, what are the drivers, the impacts and responses? The territorial agenda of the European Union and its implications for a territorial CAP.*

**14.00-14.45: Wim Heijman** (Regional Economics chair, Wageningen University):

#### **Changes in income: farm income and agri-environmental payments in Less Favoured Areas.**

*Agri-environmental payments compensate for income foregone due to marginal physical conditions, but is there a need to compensate for income foregone?*

**14.45-15.15:** Coffee break

**15.15 -16.45 Discussion.** Facilitator: **Reinier de Man** Reporters: **Martin Woestenburg and Raymond Schrijver**

**18.00:** Departure to dinner

**19.00:** REP dinner

## **Friday, October 3rd**

**9.15 –9.30: First day report**

### **Responses to change**

**9.30 –10.15: António Figueiredo** (Director General at Quaternaire Portugal, Professor of Economics, University of Porto):

**Regional Policies: results, outcomes and impacts in unbalanced regions**  
*Regional Policies: results, outcomes and impacts in unbalanced regions". The presentation develops what specific problems regional policies face in regions combining high-density and internationalised.*

**10.15- 11.00: Mark Shucksmith** (Professor of Planning, Newcastle University):

#### **The CAP and the Regions: can CAP support territorial cohesion?**

*At present the CAP works counter to cohesion policy, the other main element of the EU budget, in that it favours richer, core areas rather than poorer, peripheral regions. How might the CAP be modified to support other EU policy objectives? What is the role for local (regional) partnerships and Governance in harmonising policy?*

**11.00-11.30:** Coffee break

**11.30-12.15: Francisco Calheiros** (ADRIL)

#### **LEADER has changed the Lima Valley Region**

The way LEADER and LEADER+ has changed the Lima Valley Region is described.

**12.15-13.15:** Lunch

**13.15-14.00: Ola Christian Rygh** (Norwegian Agricultural Authority):

#### **Delegation of environmental authority to local and regional bodies in Norway**

*Policies in Norway to delegate the promotion of environmental values to local and regional authorities, within the context of rural and regional policies.*

**14.00 -14.45 Discussion and conclusions.** Facilitator: **Reiner de Man**  
Reporters: **Martin Woestenburg and Raymond Schrijver**

**14.45-15.15:** Coffee break

**15.15-17.45: Continuation of Discussion and Conclusions.**

**17.45-18.00: Closure by REP**

**19.00:** Drinks and dinner

## **Background**

In 2007 the commissioner of Agriculture Marian Fischer Boels has announced the HEALTH check of the Common Agricultural Policy. All levels of civil society are invited to take part in the discussion and provide inputs to the Health Check process. Indeed, results from the past cannot be used to predict the future, but it is recognized, that the common agricultural policy has been a success to a large extent. The CAP has secured a relatively cheap supply of food while re-allocating part of the labour force to other sectors. It should also be recognized that the CAP was more than a sectoral policy, which has contributed significantly to the shaping of the European Union.

The negative side-effect of over-production of the CAP policy has been addressed already, while pollution, loss of biodiversity and distortion of the global market are being addressed. In fact trade liberalization may also help to re-establish functional economic and social sectoral links on a territorial base, whereas the compensatory payments to farmers have to be replaced by direct payments for green services.

There is still a long way to go with respect to communication of agricultural policy. By many citizens farming is considered as an activity which in the past even prevented economic growth, pollutes the environment and still provides the largest farmers with the highest subsidies. But despite these negative links, most of our citizens have still a high esteem for farmers and there is an increasing demand for local food and green space or new economic activities require a vital rural community.

The Health Check can once more highlight that farming and the countryside are essential for providing food and services to the cities, but also essential to realize the Natura 2000 biodiversity objectives as well as to achieve social cohesion in rural areas. After all, trade liberalisation is not only good for the world, the EU and nations, but should also trigger innovation and economic growth on territorial levels.