

Arepo - Technical meeting on CAP reform

Emilia-Romagna's position

Plenary meeting of AREPO
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Introduction

- RER agrees with the contents of the AREPO position paper
- Support for quality schemes: organic products, PDO, PGI, TSG, should have more space in the support opportunities
- RER supports and shares the general principles of the Italian reform proposal (simplification, supply chain, risk management, youth, internal areas, mountain)
- Short presentation of the position paper of AREFLH
- Presentation of assessments by the Regional Discussion Forum on the Multiannual Financial Framework (QFP) and the reference framework in order to introduce also a European comparison

Position paper Areflh

- Designing a fairer and more efficient Basic Payment Scheme through:
 - Maintaining and innovating payment conditionality for environmental, sanitary and social standards
 - Upholding coupled payments and compensation mechanisms for fragile sectors
 - Maintaining the F&V Common Market Organisation (CMO) structure
 - Promoting an equal distribution of basic payments and clarifying the definition of active farmer
 - Fostering generational renewal and access to land for young farmers

Position paper Areflh

- Simplifying current rules for a more competitive agri-sector by:
 - Adopting the 'one action one instrument' principle
 - Shifting from an obligation of means towards an obligation of results
 - Developing tools to foster innovation, investment and competitiveness
- Securing farmers' income and stabilizing agricultural markets by:
 - Developing modern and effective crisis prevention and management tools
 - Designing new instruments to help farmers face large-scale retail trade
- Additional proposals
 - Creating a unique EU label for the agri-food sector
 - Adopting a regional approach for the implementation of the CAP

RER position on QFP

- Budget:

- The competitiveness of the agricultural sector is strongly affected by the impact of climate change:
 - *Support actions for adaptation to climate change even with higher resources (budget increase) for investments in public infrastructure for storage and distribution of water*
- Avoid resource allocation under the UAA: it penalizes areas of specialized and high-intensity farming such as Emilia-Romagna (and all the Regions with a strategy based on quality agriculture and GG.II)

RER position on QFP

- **Simplification:**
 - Transfer specific support for marginal areas from the second to the first pillar with a direct payment linked to the location of the farm
 - Support only «active farmers»
 - Encourage and support young farmers
 - Simplify and gather together several types of actions and support by focusing resources on key aspects

RER position on QFP

- Food chain strategies:

- It is a key sector, that could even be considered as a «**third pillar**»
- Support aggregation and concentration of supply and marketing, strengthening the organization of the agricultural phase
- Improve inter-professional tools and contract-based agriculture, that can have significant impact on production planning, on the improvement of market conditions and on a fairer value distribution in the Food Chain, at the same time protecting the consumer
- Assess the possibility to extend and support instruments similar to the fruit and vegetable CMO to other productive sectors

RER position on QFP

- Risk management:
 - Privilege mutual funds managed by subjects identified in each CMO, rather than insurance or financial instruments, to reduce the risk of transferring part of the resources from the agricultural to the financial sector
 - Maintain coupled payments introducing more flexibility and limiting this instrument to sectors or regions facing difficult situations

RER position on QFP

- Sustainability of rural communities:
 - Recognize the importance of preservation of a satisfactory agricultural production, which forms the basis for the vitality of rural communities
 - A significant part of the resources allocated to these areas (not just funds for agriculture) should support infrastructure investments and public services (water management, soil protection and the prevention of hydrogeological phenomena, viability, internet connection; etc.) which are indispensable to ensure adequate living and working conditions

RER position on QFP

- European brand «EU sustainable farming»:
 - It would shed light on the myriad of existing brands, bringing together in a European Guideline the many good practices that go beyond compliance obligations
 - It should allow to indicate the country of production of the raw material, and it should also include processed products, resulting in a positive effect on internal market transparency and on the development of better relations within the supply chain
 - It could help European consumers to recognize (and properly pay) the great efforts of EU farmers in trying to ensure healthy, quality and sustainable food.