



Voting Recommendations for the EP's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) on the CAP Strategic Plans' Proposal

28 March 2019

A. Conditionality (Annex III and Article 12)

We urge AGRI Members to **support alternative Compromise Amendment (CA) 10** on Annex III, containing the conditionality rules – and to firmly reject the rapporteur's CA.

The rapporteur's CA on Annex III weakens conditionality; e.g. in GAEC 9 it removes the obligation to devote a minimum share of agricultural area to so-called 'non-productive features'. We consider that non-productive features are crucial for reversing biodiversity loss and can, under certain conditions, improve a farmer's yields, for instance when providing fodder for pollinators. The rapporteur's CA also considerably reduces the scope of 'GAEC 2' (protection of wetland and peatland), which exists to prevent carbon-rich soils from being ploughed up, releasing more CO₂ into our atmosphere.

For the same reasons, we recommend a vote against the rapporteur's CA 12 on Article 12, which allows Member States (MS) to establish 'equivalent practices' as an alternative to conditionality rules. We appeal to AGRI MEPs to instead fight for the 'Common' in the CAP, which means having a strong core of similar rules applicable to farmers!

We should make no mistake: weakening 'conditionality' undermines the CAP's most important instrument to fight Climate Change and reverse biodiversity loss, since it applies to around 7 million farmers. Payments tied to conditionality cover the vast majority of Europe's farmland and account for the lion's share of the Pillar One budget. It is not credible to argue that the CAP's impact on the environment and biodiversity can be improved whilst unravelling conditionality.

B. Wine Sector (Articles 51, 52, and 53)

We call on AGRI Members **to support Alternative CAs 4,5 & 6 on Articles 51, 52 & 53 on the wine sector**, rejecting the rapporteur's compromises. These alternative CAs recognise that the CAP must go further in helping and incentivizing the winemaking sector to adopt more sustainable methods of production. That is good for farmers' pockets (less money spent on pesticides), for consumers (whose demand for chemical-free wines is on the rise) and for the environment. We call on AGRI Members to recognise that the wine-making sector is at a historical crossroads, as underlined by the French agriculture research institute INRA¹.

C. Indicators (Annex I)

¹ For further detail, see the press release on [the legacy of Alain Bouquet](#).

We support the rapporteur's CA on Annex 1, since it includes better biodiversity indicators, notably a Pollinators Index, which is important as a broad 'proxy' measure of biodiversity in the countryside and to inform policymakers on pollination services which are crucial for the cultivation of certain agricultural crops. We also strongly support the indicator on agrobiodiversity and the improved wording in the indicator on pesticides, which now specifically mentions pesticide use.

About ARCHE NOAH:

ARCHE NOAH (Noah's Ark) is a seed savers' association based in Central Europe. With over 17.000 members and supporters, we have over 25 years' experience in the conservation, development and promotion of crop diversity. In our offices in Vienna and Brussels, we work for policies that support a more biodiverse, sustainable agriculture.

www.arche-noah.at

Contact us: goncalo.macedo@arche-noah.at + 32 (0) 497 068 396

About BeeLife:

BeeLife European Beekeeping Coordination is an association formed by professionals of the beekeeping sector from different countries of the European Union. Its main activity is the study of the impact on bees of environmental threats such as pesticides, climate change or genetically modified organisms (GMOs). BeeLife works for the protection of bees and biodiversity through its network of over 20 beekeeping associations from several countries of the EU.

www.bee-life.eu

Contact us: Andrés SALAZAR comms@bee-life.eu

About PAN EUROPE:

Pesticide Action Network Europe (PAN Europe) was founded in 1987 and brings together consumer, public health, environmental organisations, and women's groups from across Europe. PAN Europe is part of the global network PAN International working to minimise the negative effects and replace the use of harmful pesticides with ecologically sound alternatives.

www.pan-europe.info

Contact us: henriette@pan-europe.info + 32 2 318 62 55