



CONSEIL EUROPEEN DES JEUNES AGRICULTEURS
European Council of Young Farmers - Europäischer Rat der Junglandwirte

ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

Future...Food...Farmers is a European-wide campaign which aims to raise public and political awareness of the impending age crisis in European agriculture. The organisation behind the campaign is the non-for-profit, non-governmental organisation the European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA). CEJA's objective is to shape EU legislation and regulation to make the European agricultural sector accessible to young people, and the most relevant policy field to this aim is the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Since the lack of generational renewal in European agriculture is simply too serious a problem to overlook or ignore, CEJA thinks it is essential that the issue of young farmers and the age crisis does not get lost in the sea of negotiation and bargaining.

We decided to get the message out there, not only so that the general public is aware that future food production and vitality of rural areas in Europe are at risk, but so that decision-makers realise 'young farmers' are not just another bargaining chip. Economic and environmental sustainability cannot be achieved without demographic sustainability. This issue does not just affect agricultural stakeholders – it affects every single one of the 500 000 000 European citizens.

As the CAP is currently under discussion for reform for 2014-2020 in the EU institutions, now is our window of opportunity to achieve progress on generational renewal in the agricultural sector. In order to secure our future, our food, our farmers, generational renewal must be prioritised in this reform of the CAP. 2020 will be too late. The conclusion of our campaign will take place in the first quarter of 2013, when we present our support and signatories to the CAP trilogue: European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Dacian Cioloş; President of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council and Irish Farm Minister, Simon Coveney; and Member of European Parliament and Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, Paolo de Castro.

We need as much support in the form of many signatures as possible, to show these decision-makers that this issue cannot be ignored any longer, but must be dealt with in this reform.

We have chosen 16 October 2012 to launch our campaign as it is World Food Day: generational renewal in European farming is crucial to global food security.

www.futurefoodfarmers.eu

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Use #FutureFoodFarmers when tweeting about our campaign.

ABOUT CEJA

The European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA) was created in 1958. Today, CEJA is comprised of 30 European member organisations from 23 EU Member States and one associate member, Croatia. CEJA's main objective is to promote a younger and more innovative agricultural sector across the European Union (EU) and to establish better working and living conditions for young people setting up in farming, as well as those who are already young farmers. CEJA's cause is highly relevant to today's Europe, considering that only 6% of agricultural holders in the EU are below the age of 35. Moreover, farmers who are younger than 35 tend to show 40% more economic potential and 37% more hectares of utilised agricultural area. CEJA provides a platform for dialogue between young farmers and European decision-makers, defending young farmers' interests to European and national institutions. The organisation strives for a Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) which prioritises young farmers and generational renewal in the sector.

CEJA's mission is to help shape the regulatory framework in order to reverse the ageing trend of the sector, in order to secure the future of European agriculture. Access to the agricultural sector is particularly difficult for young people because of the significant barriers to entry standing in their way. These challenges consist of, most importantly, access to land, access to credit and high investments. CEJA tries to raise the awareness of European decision-makers of these issues, in order to rebalance conditions for young farmers by calling for measures such as installation aid and annual top-up payments to facilitate entry to the sector and help buffer young farmers from market volatility and price fluctuations in their first few fragile years of business. CEJA attempts to achieve this by playing an important part in framing the regulatory framework of agricultural policy at EU level.

CEJA is confident that young farmers can be part of the solutions to several of the crucial, 21st Century problems: young, innovative and environmentally-conscious farmers of the future are aware of the environmental challenge as well as the food security challenge, and are ready to face up to them.

This is why CEJA is campaigning for young farmers to be prioritised in the new CAP, and why we want to raise awareness of the general public and decision-makers of the gravity of the situation.



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FAQs

What is the definition of a 'young farmer' ?

- Article 22 of Council Regulation 1698/2005 on support for Rural Development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development provides the following definition of a young farmer:

"[Young farmers] are less than 40 years of age and are setting up for the first time on an agricultural holding as head of the holding; possess adequate occupational skills and competence; submit a business plan for the development of their farming activities."

Where do our statistics on demographics in the sector come from ?

They come from the Eurostat farm structure surveys, which you can find on their database.

What is the current measure for young farmers in the CAP ?

- Measure 112 on the "Setting up of young farmers" currently provides installation aid to young farmers under the Rural Development programme. However, although this measure has the objective of "facilitating young farmers' initial establishment and structural adjustments of their holdings after initial set-up", it has had a low take-up across EU Member States as it is an optional scheme.

- Support is given in the form of a single premium or interest rate subsidy of up to EUR 70,000 and is co-financed at a 50-50 ratio

- However, these measures have been used by only a few of the 27 EU Member States, and in the majority of Member States the amount used has not exceeded even half of the EUR 70,000 budget. Many applications are not completed due to a restricted national budget allocated for this measure.

- In total, the installation aid measure represented only 3% of the Rural Development Programme budget for the 2007-2013 programming period

Where does CEJA get its funding from?

- Membership fees
- CEJA is an entirely independent, not-for-profit organisation
- EU grants

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

- Only 6% of European farmers are under 35
- Over 1/3 of European farmers are over 65
- 1/6 of all jobs in Europe are directly or indirectly related to agricultural production
- On average, farmers under 35 show 40% more economic potential, 37% more hectares of utilised agricultural area and 26% more annual working units



Agricultural holders below 35 years old

Share of total (%)

Poland	12,3	Portugal	1,9
Czech Republic	9,8	Cyprus	2,5
Austria	9,7	United Kingdom	2,6
Finland	9,1	Italy	2,9
France	7,9	Bulgaria	3,1
Germany	7,7	Slovakia	3,6
Hungary	7,6	Netherlands	3,9
Latvia	7,2	Slovenia	4,0
EU-25	7,1	Lithuania	4,2
Greece	7,0	Malta	4,2
Ireland	6,9	Romania	4,3
EU-27	6,1	Spain	4,5
Denmark	6,0	EU-15	5,0
Belgium	5,9	Luxemburg	5,3
Estonia	5,6	Sweden	5,5

Agricultural holders above 65 years old

Share of total (%)

Finland	6,2	Portugal	48,3
Germany	7,5	Bulgaria	45,3
Austria	11,0	Romania	45,0
France	15,4	Italy	44,5
Luxemburg	15,9	Lithuania	40,7
Poland	16,2	Greece	37,4
Netherlands	18,2	Spain	36,6
Czech Republic	18,5	Slovenia	35,0
Denmark	20,3	EU-27	34,1
Belgium	21,2	EU-1	33,8
Sweden	21,6	Estonia	33,3
Ireland	24,9	Slovakia	32,9
Malta	25,4	United Kingdom	32,6
Hungary	27,8	Cyprus	29,5
EU-25	28,8	Latvia	29,4

CEJA Internal Document – May 2010



SUPPORT YOUNG FARMERS TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE

The number of young farmers in Europe today is falling fast. We have reached a point where only 6% of farmers across the European Union are under the age of 35. The situation is even more alarming in some Member States, where the young represent less than 3% of the entire farming community. For a continent which embodies the key value of sustainability, this is not a promising figure.

Action must be taken now to guarantee that European agriculture will deliver the quality and competitiveness European society expects in food production. If we do not stop the imminent age-related crisis, then environmental protection, job creation, biodiversity conservation, and food security will be under threat. The lack of generational renewal in farming will lead to an array of other problems, too: the sustainability, prosperity and diversity of rural areas will soon be at stake.

However, these challenges can be overcome – and young farmers are the solution. The European Union is endowed with young, innovative agricultural entrepreneurs, looking for opportunities to address these challenges, eager to implement the changes they want to see for the environment and productivity, and ready to invest in Europe's future, and their own.

Now is our chance: the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is undergoing reform for 2020, presenting a prime opportunity to make the necessary changes towards an environmentally, economically and demographically sustainable European agriculture. Our task is by no means impossible – there are innovative and ambitious young people all over Europe ready to get their teeth into your future food production. They just need support getting through the farm gates.

This CAP reform must address the current age crisis in European agriculture so that it will have the motivated, well-prepared farmers it needs to address tomorrow's challenges today.

We must secure our future, our food, our farmers.

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, CALL UPON THE EU INSTITUTIONS TO PRIORITISE GENERATIONAL RENEWAL IN EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE IN THE COMING CAP REFORM.

NAME:

ORGANISATION:

SIGNATURE:

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