



CAP REFORM AGREEMENT:

“THE MEMBER STATES SHOULD CHOOSE THE RIGHT OPTIONS TO VALIDATE THE POSITIVE OUTCOMES OF THE REFORM”

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FEFAC welcomes the political agreement reached by the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council on the next Common Agricultural Policy.

The new CAP will provide new market management tools. Through the market disturbance clause, the European Commission will be in the position to react more rapidly to adverse market conditions, e.g. to suspend more rapidly import duties for feed materials when necessary. “I have no doubt that the new risk management toolkit will be extremely useful for EU livestock farmers in the future”, says FEFAC President Ruud Tijssens. “Volatility on the agricultural market is here to stay. Therefore, the income stabilisation tool is an appropriate measure to protect the income of EU livestock farmers, while limiting the pressure on the EU budget in a difficult context”.

“The possibility to include Nitrogen-fixing crops as a practice eligible under the ecological focus areas is also a positive move regarding the development of alternative EU protein sources”, states Ruud Tijssens. “We recommend to Member States to uniformly include Nitrogen-fixing crops under their greening measures across the EU-28, so as to maximize the opportunity to grow more EU vegetable proteins”.

FEFAC, however, regrets that the additional flexibility granted to Member States could undermine the common dimension of the EU agricultural policy. Maintaining a level playing field among EU farmers is an objective of the CAP that has been neglected in the current reform. FEFAC now calls for a rapid agreement on the Multiannual Financial Framework in order to provide the EU agricultural sector with more certainty.

Notes to the editor:

1. FEFAC, the European Compound Feed Manufacturers' Federation, represents 24 national Associations in 23 EU Member States. FEFAC represents also Associations in Turkey, Serbia, Russia, Switzerland and Norway with observer/associate member status. The European compound feed industry employs over 110,000 persons on app. 4,000 production sites often in rural areas, which offer few employment opportunities.
2. Farm animals in the EU-27 consume an estimated 470 million tonnes of feed a year, of which 150 million tonnes are produced by the compound feed manufacturers. Turnover of the European compound feed industry was estimated at €45 billion for 2012.
3. For more information see our website (www.fefac.eu) or please contact Alexander Döring, Secretary General Tel. +32-2-285.00.50, Fax +32-2-230.57.22, e-mail: fefac@fefac.eu.