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“Submission on CAP after 2013”
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SUBMISSION ON CAP AFTER 2013

Submission by Compassion in World Farming - Ireland

At present the vast majority of CAP funds are used under the Pillar 1 Single Payment Scheme to compensate farmers for no longer receiving production-related subsidies.

Compassion in World Farming believes that the CAP should be radically reformed after 2013 so that CAP funds are re-directed away from supporting farmers' income or production and instead are used to support the societal, environmental and animal welfare benefits that are increasingly valued by taxpayers.

We believe that farmers should be rewarded by the market for outputs and by the taxpayer for public goods that the market cannot deliver. Animal welfare can in part be delivered by the market. Consumers in northern Europe are showing themselves to be increasingly willing to pay more for animal welfare-friendly products. However, the delivery of good standards of animal welfare cannot be left to the market alone. Farmers should be assisted by the CAP to adopt high welfare standards.

Post 2013, CAP funds should be targeted at payments for agriculture related activities which represent added value and are not rewarded by the market. All or most future payments should be linked to the quantifiable delivery of public goods in areas such as care of the environment, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, food safety, preservation of the landscape, and animal welfare. The achievement of such values has traditionally been the preserve of Pillar 2, but in our view should now become the central objective of the CAP as a whole. Payments after 2013 should be linked to the achievement of more measurable outcomes than at present and should involve a more precise measurement of the results achieved.

Citizens clearly want the CAP to help deliver good standards of animal welfare. The 2007 Eurobarometer survey *Attitudes of EU citizens towards animal welfare*¹ shows that there is strong endorsement among the public of the idea of compensating farmers for any extra costs that may be associated with higher animal welfare. The Eurobarometer survey found that a large majority of the EU public (72%), and of the Irish public (68%), believe that farmers should be remunerated for the increased costs that can result from higher animal welfare standards.

¹ Attitudes of EU citizens towards animal welfare. Eurobarometer. European Commission. March 2007.
(http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/survey/sp_barometer_aw_en.pdf)

Competitiveness of the agricultural sector

Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural sector is an important objective of the CAP. We believe that good standards of animal welfare will improve, rather than detract from, the competitiveness of farming. The European Commission has stressed that animal welfare should be seen as a business opportunity, rather than a burden, as it can contribute to consumers' growing focus on quality agricultural products.

Good animal welfare will increasingly become a marketing advantage rather than an economic burden as the demand by Irish and other European consumers for animal welfare-friendly products is continuing to grow. It is difficult for Irish and other EU farmers to compete with third country producers on cost; this is not because of differences in animal welfare standards, but because third country producers have lower feed, labour and land costs. Even when third country producers operate to the same animal welfare standards as EU farmers, they are able to out-compete EU producers because of their lower feed, labour and land costs.

It is Compassion in World Farming's view that the future for Irish and other EU farmers lies in competing, not on the basis of low animal welfare standards, but on the basis of quality. We believe that good standards of animal welfare are seen by consumers as an integral component of food quality.

Ireland is particularly suitable for the production of high quality food: the environment is clean, considerable farming skills have been gained from a long agricultural history, and being an island allows control with regard to minimizing pollution and animal disease risks. CAP assistance for changing to higher animal welfare systems of production would add further to the quality of Irish produce.

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