

POST-2027 COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP)

Key points for consumers

Why it matters to consumers

The CAP affects almost every aspect of the European food system and represents almost a third of the EU budget. Its design influences what is economically viable for farmers, how markets respond to shocks, what foods are available to consumers, and at what price. It can and should become a central instrument to deliver healthy, sustainable, and affordable food by prioritising consumers' expectations.

The table assesses the proposals with the following symbols, illustrating:



what BEUC supports



what can be improved and is missing



what BEUC considers problematic

TOPICS

RECOMMENDATIONS

CAPPED PAYMENTS AND DEGRESSIVITY



Redistributing funds to **smaller farms** and supporting **younger farmers** goes in the right direction and is in line with consumer expectations.

CAP PAYMENTS TO FARMERS



The CAP should **shift from area-and-compliance-based payments to reward measurable environmental improvements** (e.g., reduced pesticide use, healthier soils, increased biodiversity, lower emissions).

It should provide targeted and adaptive funding to support the transition, especially for smaller or resource-constrained farms, and **use tiered payments and automatic fund reallocation**. This will allow money to flow to the most effective measures without penalising farmers for uncontrollable factors.

FOOD AFFORDABILITY - MISSING



Policymakers should make food affordability a **core, measurable CAP objective**.

To achieve this, the CAP's performance monitoring should **include consumer-focused affordability indicators** to detect when consumers, especially low-income groups, face rising costs.

There should be a **mechanism that triggers timely market reviews and corrective action like price adjustments or direct subsidies** when essential food prices outpace incomes or inflation.

TOPICS

RECOMMENDATIONS

ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE SUSTAINABLE FOOD



The CAP should **rebalance sectoral support** from animal-derived toward fruits, vegetables, legumes, and other healthy, sustainable foods, while ensuring CAP funding aligns with consumers' animal welfare expectations and sustainable production.

The CAP should improve already used **measures such as public procurement, school meal scheme, and support shorter supply chains**. This will improve access to nutritious food and ensure that market conditions benefit both farmers and consumers.

TRANSPARENCY, GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRATIC ACCOUNTABILITY



The CAP should be more transparent with **open access, standardised data on spending, beneficiaries, and performance**. This would help independent reviews or audits to ensure consistent standards across Member States.

EVALUATION AND MONITORING



To enhance result-comparability across Member States and reflect real environmental progress, the CAP's Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Framework needs **harmonised baselines, indicators, and transparent verification systems**.

CIVIL SOCIETY INVOLVEMENT - MISSING



To ensure measures reflect consumer expectations on affordability, sustainability and fairness, **civil society should be part of the CAP's Monitoring Committees**.

Civil society and consumer organisations should have access to regular, documented consultations when drafting, implementing, and revising national CAP plans.