



CONSEIL EUROPEEN DES JEUNES AGRICULTEURS

**European Council of Young Farmers - Europäischer Rat der
Junglandwirte**

12/10/2011

Brussels

Press Release

CEJA welcomes measures for young farmers in the proposed CAP but calls for improvement and endorsement

CEJA, the European Council of Young Farmers, welcomes the measures for young farmers included in both Pillars of the proposed CAP package, presented today by Commissioner Dacian Cioloş. CEJA gladly notes that generational renewal in agriculture is considered a priority and that the proposed package acknowledges that the EU needs to take appropriate measures to answer the special needs of young farmers across Europe.

CEJA strongly calls on the European Parliament and Council to endorse and enforce the position adopted by the Commission.

On measures for young farmers in the first pillar:

CEJA welcomes the measures for young farmers in the first pillar, since the income of young farmers during the first five years of start-up is very sensitive to price volatility.

The 25% top up on the average value of payment entitlements held by young farmers for the first five years after installation is a good starting point for discussion. CEJA calls for the top up to represent a minimum of 2%, and up to 3%, of the national envelope. That percentage would cover the increasing applications coming from young farmers in the years after the reform.

Moreover, CEJA calls for the capping level for top up payments to be increased to 50 hectares. Young farmers tend to run larger farms than the average national farm size, and the threshold for the top up should reflect this.

In addition, if Member States do not fully use the minimum percentage of the national budget for the top, they should be able to either increase the number of hectares as a basis for the top up, or the percentage of the top up, in order to meet the minimum percentage of the national envelope.

On measures for young farmers in the second pillar:

It is of utmost importance for the competitiveness and sustainability of European agriculture that the number of installations is increased and the farm take-over process speeded up across the EU. CEJA therefore calls for a favorable ratio of co-financing of 80% coming from the EU and 20% from the national envelope.

Joris Baecke, President CEJA commented *“Today’s proposed reform provides a real opportunity to attract young people into agriculture. I strongly call on the European Parliament and the European Council to improve the measures put forward in the proposal and to endorse them. Europe needs to invest in its Young Farmers”*.

More information on CEJA's position on the CAP can be found here:

<http://ceja.eu/en/policy-and-publications/cap-reform>

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CEJA is made up of 28 national organisations from the EU-27, representing altogether around one million young farmers in Europe. CEJA represents the political interests of its members and has the primary goal of ensuring installation of young farmers. It is considered to be one of the key advocates for the agricultural sector.

CEJA's main objectives are to facilitate the installation of young farmers in Europe, to inform, train and represent young farmers, to act as a forum for communication and dialogue between young farmers and to sensitise European citizens to farming-related issues.
