

The next CAP reform and the role of civil society

Samuel Féret -
Co-ordinator of the French « CAP 2013 group »

Meeting of the Groupe de Bruges
Athens, 8th April 2011

CAP reform process (1)

- CAP is a veteran of reforms: Fifth reform or adaptation since 1992, path dependence
- Internal constraints vs external constraints in the 90's:
 - Huge lack of legitimacy : large expenditures, impact on employment, environment, payments poorly targeted...
 - Financial Perspectives negotiations
- Change of repository of public policies : Sustainable development, Climate conventions, Agenda EU 2020...
- Challenges: Competitiveness, Climate change, Loss of biodiversity and natural resources, Increasing global food insecurity, Social and Economic cohesion in rural areas
- Decision-making process : 27 MS and MEPs

⇒ **A transition policy towards 2020**

CAP reform process (2)

- Public debate: more than 5600 contributions; an enlarged stakeholders arena (July 2010)
 - Consultation for Impact assessment: 400 responses (Jan. 2010)
 - Impact assessment and Legal Drafting
 - Council and EP negotiations; Final agreement
 - national/regional implementation
- ⇒ **CAP is no longer just the concern of States and Farm organizations; citizens and taxpayers are more and more involved;**
- ⇒ **A process more participatory; the current debate on CAP after 2013 is a new stage**

EC communication (1)

- A communication welcomed by a large of stakeholders and by the medias: « *Greening the CAP!* »
- Enthusiasm of NGO's: “*The findings of the July conference were taken into account: local markets, small farms, greening....* »

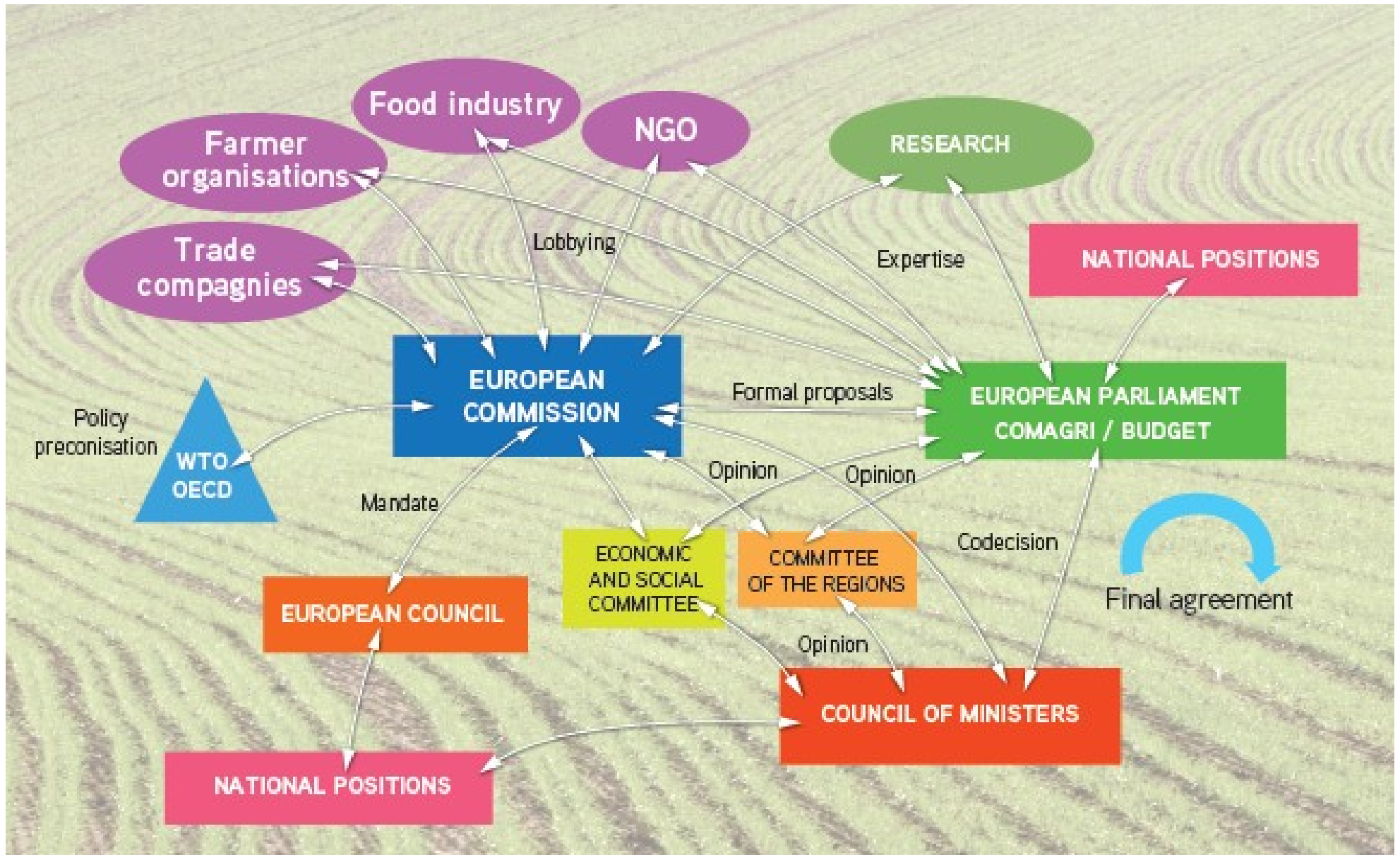


Source: Liberation

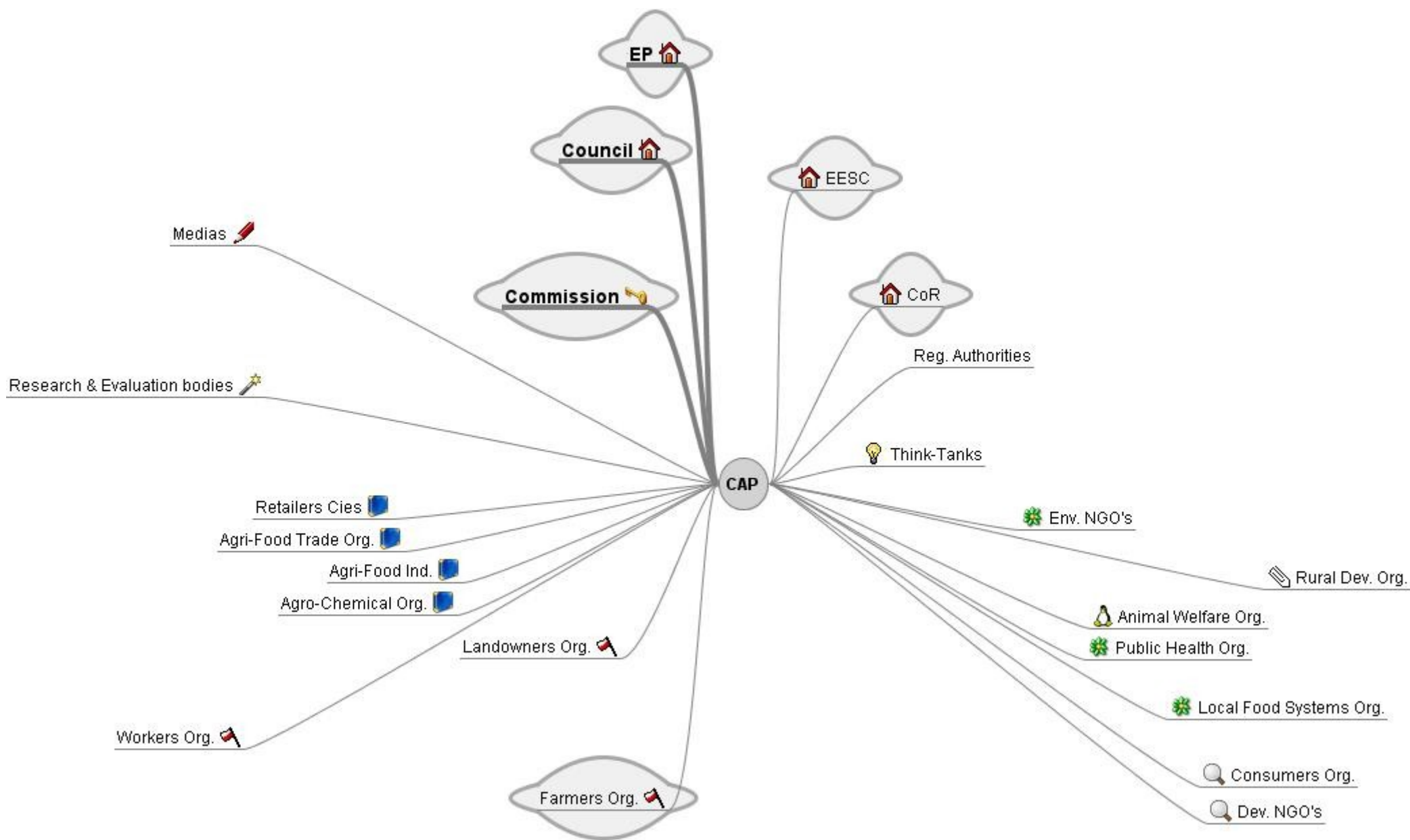
EC communication (2)

- Skepticism of reformers MS:
 - The COM does not go far enough: further market orientation is needed
 - Why Greening Pillar 1 while Pillar 2 is supposed to do more for Environment management?
 - Targeting on small farmholdings is recoupling!
- Enthusiasm of conservative MS: France became the first supporter of Greening Pillar 1!
- Ag ministers opposed to Capping income support: Reformers “conservatism” ?
- EP lost in a “*Dess-Orientation* »

Graph of the political discussions on the CAP



Simplified Mapping of CAP stakeholders



The rôle of Civil society

French EcoSoc Committee, stated in 2002:

« A large space, separate, in any case, from State (as well as organizations such as political parties, which contribute to the exercise of power), space within which citizens are active autonomous, collective and structured. »

Civil society « includes a diverse set covering in particular the social partners, other organizations representing social and economic organizations formed to defend the great causes, local associations (...) » .

"By nature, society is not homogeneous: it is diverse and multifaceted. Its components change with the forces within it. Often conflicting, sometimes conflicting, interests are represented, which does not precludes within the search for convergence and the usefulness of working together »

Role of Civil society in CAP reform

Social Learning:

- Facilitate the dialogue among Farm org. and others NGO's at global and local levels
- Popularize issues about agriculture in general and CAP in particular : e.g. « *Explain the CAP for dummies* » towards Medias, Policymakers...

Force of Proposal:

- Channel the « *Thermodynamics of ideas* » in order to avoid energy dissipation of NGO's work
 - Build a shared vision for future of farming in 2020 that justify a more legitimate public EU support (today €55 billions)
- ⇒ **Key role of interfaces to feed ideas discussions on CAP reform; key role of networks and multi-stakeholders process**

ARC : Agricultural and Rural Convention

- A **civil society platform** for stakeholders, European citizens and their organisations. www.arc2020.eu
- An **innovative and transparent process** to develop a strong and common message:
 - A **paradigm shift in agriculture** from a centralised food industry to a sustainable and diversified pattern of regional and local production and processing of food:
 - AgroEcological modernization on farms
 - Decentralized/Local food systems
 - An **economic renaissance of rural areas** based on the strength and diversity of communities and cultures:
 - Regional, sub-Regional and local partnerships
 - Leader approach

Thank you for your attention!

www.arc2020.eu

www.pouruneautrepac.eu

samuel.feret@pouruneautrepac.eu