

Speech Donato Fanelli – CEJA (European Young Farmers)

CEJA is an organisation that represents 1.8 million young farmers in Europe.

When discussing the future of the CAP this is in the context of a series of new challenges, not only for agriculture. We need for example a fundamental reform concerning the use of natural resources, notably water. Climate change will also play a huge role and I want to underline here that agriculture is the only sector that not only produces green house gasses but is also able to sequester them. We have the ongoing debate on the use of biotechnology and of course about public goods. We have witnessed an enormous increase in the price volatility of agricultural commodities.

At our meeting earlier this april we drew the following conclusions:

- More funds are needed for research
- Direct payments should stay but only for what I would call real farmers
- Public goods should be paid as a service to society
- Improvements and investments are needed in the infrastructure of the agro-food system
- We need a risks management system, a safety net, not only to counter the economic risks in a liberalised markets, but also to counter environmental and sanitary risks
- We need a correct functioning of the food supply chain. This point, by the way, was not mentioned here by any of the other speakers. We have to take the needs of consumers better into account, but we also need more transparency in the price system in the food supply chain and in the labelling of the origin of the products and especially of the origin of the raw materials. Now the retail industry prescribes how the farmers should farm.

Economic stability of farms is necessary also for ecological stability. This includes also employment in rural areas.

We should therefore inform society about the role agriculture is playing concerning food supply, employment and environmental issues and not only talk about aid and subsidies.