



Independent network
on European Agricultural
and Rural development policies



Closing the gap on the CAP: young citizens and young farmers discuss the future of farming in the context of the new Common Agricultural Policy

Background

Recently the CAP has been substantially reformed and with a budget of some € 373 billion for the 2014-2020 period it is the second most substantial policy of the European Union.

The Groupe de Bruges, an independent network and think tank on European agricultural and rural development policies, is currently developing a comprehensive e-learning platform on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP): "Can EU CAP it?". The platform centres around four key topics: 1) Future of farming; 2) Future of Rural areas; 3) Sustainable management of natural resources; 4) Food security, food safety and food quality.

In connection with the online platform four events are organised in four capital cities in Europe.

The first event and kick off of the whole project is a public debate on the future of farming and will take place in Amsterdam on November 27.

Objectives

The **objectives** of this public debate are to:

- Raise youth awareness on the role and contribution of family farming for food & nutrition security and youth/rural employment;
- Identify the key issues connected with the necessary generational renewal in European agriculture
- Explain what Europe and Member States are doing to support the generational renewal and setting up of agricultural businesses
- Engage urban citizens, and in particular urban youth, in the debate about the future of food and farming.

For this public debate, we are looking for strong recommendations and action points to be taken into consideration by different stakeholders, which can contribute in strengthening the engagement of youth in farming.

Target audience

The primary target group for this public debate are youths (18 to 35 years) interested or involved in food, farming, family farming agriculture. Organisations supporting youth in agriculture, especially on family farming, are also targeted. Finally, any person or organisation interested or working in this area is most welcomed to join the debate.

Where and When

The debate will take place on 27th November 2014, from 15:00 – 17:30, at De Rode Hoed in Amsterdam. <http://www.rodehoed.nl/en/>

Programme

- 14.30: Room open for participants
- 15.00: Welcome and introduction by Arie van den Brand, president of the Groupe de Bruges and moderator of the meeting
- 15.05: Short presentation of the "Can EU CAP it?" project by Bart Soldaat, project manager
- 15.15: **Lucas van Dessel, vice-chair of the Flemish Young Farmers organisation Groene Kring**: the future of farming needs young farmers (confirmed)
- 15.30: **Ms Sharon Dijksma, Deputy Minister for Agriculture**: vision of the Dutch government on the future of farming in the context of the new CAP (confirmed)
- 15.45: **Joris Lohman**, chairman of the **Slow Food Youth Network**: the future of farming needs concerned citizens (confirmed)
- 16.00: **Discussion with panel of speakers**. Possibility for online participants to pose questions through Twitter using **#canEUCAPit** hastag.
- 16.20: **Official launch of the project by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Miss Sharon Dijksma**.
- 16.30: Launch of the CAP game: "Can EU CAP it?"
- 16.45: In the spotlight: presentations of two examples of initiatives by young farmers and by young urbanites concerning food production and food consumption
Freek van Leeuwen: young, organic dairy farmer, Zoeterwoude (confirmed)
Philip van Traa: **GrownDownTown**, Amsterdam (confirmed)
- 17.10: Q&A session
- 17.30: Announcement of the winner of the local CAP game competition, Closure of meeting

Join the debate

To take part in the e-debate, interested participants have to sign up to the Eventbrite here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/publiek-debat-closing-the-gap-on-the-cap-tickets-13722449215>.

Please know, that the number of participants at De Rode Hoed is maximum of 200. People that have not registered will not be admitted to the room.

Language of the event is Dutch, but there will be a recording with English translation available short after the event.

Questions can be posed both by participants in the room and online. Questions will first be assessed and prioritised by the organisation before putting them on the projection screen in the room.

The web stream of the event will be edited in put on the project's website.

More Information

More information on our activities: [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#) - [LinkedIn](#).

Download this announcement in pdf version which you can share with your network: public Debate "Closing the gap on the CAP: young citizens and young farmers discuss the future of farming in the context of the new Common Agricultural Policy".

Further Themes

We are organising three future events:

Berlin (16 – 25 January 2015): exhibition stand at International Green Week **and workshop on future of rural areas**

Paris (22 February – 1 March 2015): exhibition stand at Salon d'Agriculture **and workshop on sustainable management of natural resources**

Rome (18 March 2015): **public debate on food security, food safety & food quality (in collaboration with FAO)**